



THE INDEPENDENT

Monday 27 October 1997

(150p) 45p

No 3,438

1a's legacy

INSIDE TODAY

13/
DEBORAH
ROSS



finds Nicola
Horlick is
human
after all



12/STYLE
Hot denim
that is walking
out of the
shops

This man forged a Van Gogh. Did he fake Gauguin and Cézanne as well?



Portrait of a fake artist: The man depicted standing anxiously rubbing his hands is Claude-Emile Schuffenecker who, according to a television documentary broadcast last night was 'almost certainly' the real painter of a Vincent Van Gogh sunflowers picture, sold for nearly £25m at auction. According to the art writer Geraldine Norman, further investigations could one day reveal the unknown French art teacher as the true author of works by his friend Paul Gauguin (who painted this picture of Schuffenecker and his family in 1889) and Paul Cézanne. Full story, page 20

Musée D'Orsay, Paris

Grand prix ace dents his good name

Michael Schumacher, thought by some to be the greatest racing driver of all time, lost not only the Formula One world championship yesterday but also much of the global respect that his skills have earned him.

When it came to the decisive moment during the final race of the season at Jerez, Schumacher's ambition seemed to eclipse his good sense.

The 28-year-old German driver almost knocked Jacques Villeneuve, his rival for the championship, out of the Grand Prix of Europe.

Schumacher, his Ferrari fading, knew that the French-Canadian would win the world title if he managed to finish at least sixth. What happened next was witnessed by millions of television viewers all over the world.

On the 48th lap of the 69-lap race, the race leader's Ferrari veered into the chasing Williams-Renault as Villeneuve attempted to pass inside on a tight right-hand bend.

The collision left Schumacher stranded in the gravel trap, while Villeneuve, despite a damaged car and ruined front tyres, eventually finished third to secure the title. "Michael had his eyes closed, or maybe his hands slipped on the wheel," a diplomatic Villeneuve said, while the race stewards took no action, deeming the incident a "racing accident" and no one's fault.

Schumacher's demise was relished in the Williams camp; he collided with Damon Hill in Adelaide three years ago, denying the Briton, then driving for Williams, the title. Both drivers were eliminated by that incident and Schumacher, ahead in the standings, took the championship. The general view at yesterday's race was that Schumacher, leading by one point, would not expose himself to the risk of further public condemnation. However, Schumacher and the other drivers operate in an environment and business where the stakes are high and second place is regarded as first of the losers.

Stirling Moss, acknowledged as the greatest driver never to have become World Champion, recently observed: "This is no longer a sport."

— Derick Allop
Race report, Sport tabloid

TODAY'S NEWS

Scotland may recruit own defence force

First there was Braveheart, then came the Scottish vote for devolution. Now the talk is about raising a force to defend the Scottish people. Glasgow University has drawn up proposals for an independent Scottish Defence Force of 12,500 troops, 30 ships and 100 aircraft. Page 6

Refresher driving tests

Motorists could be forced to take refresher driving tests every 10 years. The idea is aimed at reducing the number of accidents in Europe, where 45,000 people are killed on the roads each year. Motoring organisations pointed that it would not tackle the main cause of problem — young drivers. Page 3

SEEN & HEARD

Most horticultural competitions involve prizes for the largest marrow or biggest turnip, but judges at a contest in Spain this weekend were looking for the best cannabis crop. More than 50 marijuana lovers gathered at a private club for the first 'Madrid Marijuana Cup'. The organisers are lobbying the Spanish government to legalise the growing of cannabis for personal consumption. But anxious contestants had a long wait before the winner was announced. Each judge had to smoke 10 samples and, realising they would be in no condition to make a quick decision, organisers allowed them 24 hours to recover their senses before deciding which was the best.

Secret video reveals parents' brutality

A controversial secret video operation in two hospitals filmed parents carrying out sadistic attacks on their children. Some of the adults later confessed to killing children in their care.

A team of experts led by cot death expert Professor David Southall will reveal today a shocking catalogue of attacks on babies and young children by apparently caring parents and step-parents.

The secret cameras, which filmed parents suffocating, punching, kicking and poisoning children between the ages of two months and four years were set up in the Royal Brompton Hospital in London and the North Staffordshire Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent between 1986 and 1994. The videotaped evidence led to 33 criminal prosecutions.

All but one of the 39 children attacked were placed in care and it emerged that 12 of their brothers and sisters had died in sudden or unexpected circumstances originally thought to be cot deaths.

Four parents admitting suffocating eight of these siblings. Deliberate suffocation had been observed in three of the children under surveillance.

Although Professor Southall's methods have been condemned by some families, he believes the use of hidden cameras has been vindicated by the clear evidence of physical abuse.

The findings, which are to be published next week in the world's most widely read child health journal, have serious implications for the prevention of child abuse in Britain, which emphasises working with the family to resolve any problems. Professor Southall thinks a small but significant band of parents are suffering

from serious personality disorders. They cannot be trusted — to do so would leave children in danger.

He said: "The United Kingdom has probably one of the best child protection systems in the world. Yet our work, as well as our clinical experience in child abuse, leads us to believe that the British philosophy, enshrined in the (1989) Children Act, of working together with parents, will generally fail to protect children from this kind of abuse."

The authors, who also include another consultant paediatrician, Dr Martin Samuels, and North Staffordshire Hospital's honorary registrar, Dr Michael Plunkett, call for "sweeping changes" in the approach to child protection in Britain.

Where there is severe abusive behaviour,

BY LOUISE
JURY

"more assertive methods of investigation and decision making" might be needed.

The report said: "A proportion of serious child abuse is inflicted by severely disturbed, deceitful but plausible parents."

"This abuse may be difficult to recognise, life-threatening, and associated with extreme degrees of physical and mental harm that are difficult to imagine. Covert surveillance has revealed that many such parents appeared caring and kind in the presence of professionals, yet within seconds of being alone with the child became cruel and sadistic."

The consultants point out that in many countries child protection programmes are rudimentary, if not non-existent.

"Given the contents of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,

programmes to address child abuse, particularly that involving parents with this form of psychological and personality disorder, must become a priority for all member states."

All the children videoed had been strongly suspected by paediatricians, social workers and police child protection officers of being in serious danger of life-threatening abuse by a parent or step-parent.

Although adults who inflict such harm have been described as suffering from Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, where they create symptoms in a child or another victim to get attention, Professor Southall believes such a description is inadequate in the cases he describes.

The abuse is more deliberate and extreme than is normally associated with Munchausen's.

However, his methods have come under criticism in some quarters. Keele University psychiatrists expressed concern about the infringement of privacy and the risk of exposing children to further harm in the surveillance operations.

In a separate study of babies with breathing problems, some parents were unhappy that their children had been placed on a new type of respirator devised by the professor.

Chris Oldham, a traffic engineer and friend of a woman convicted of killing her daughter by poisoning her, urged caution in assessing the findings. "I'm quite certain that there are some mothers who thoroughly deserve to have their children taken away from them. But I think over-enthusiasm by Professor Southall could bring his work into disrepute."

The mother of the woman, who hopes to appeal against conviction, said they met the professor briefly. "We definitely felt that he had made up his mind and anything we said would be discounted."

INNOVATING COMPUTING FIXING COPYING PRINTING

Your first
3 months' copies.

You run them off,
we write
them off

Start counting from one to one hundred and fifty thousand. On second thoughts don't. It'll take you ages. Just buy any new black and white Canon office copier now and enjoy 3 months' without service charges, comprising all maintenance, black toner and call-out fees. Which can equate to a massive 150,000 free copies. We think our write-off offer is right on. Contact your authorised Canon supplier, or just call 0500 801 801.

YOU AND
CANON CAN

Based on Canon (UK) Limited average monthly volume usage.
Offer ends 31.12.97.

www.canon.co.uk

Canon

44 WEATHER The Eye, page 10
TELEVISION The Eye, page 12
CROSSWORDS Page 20 and
the Eye, page 9
Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>
770951 946511

12

2/BRIEFING

COLUMN ONE

Rare beetle invited to live in designer bins

British conservationists have started a 50-year experiment to try to save one of Britain's rarest insects using a bizarre concoction of chicken droppings, sawdust, wood shavings and dead rabbits which have perished on the roads.

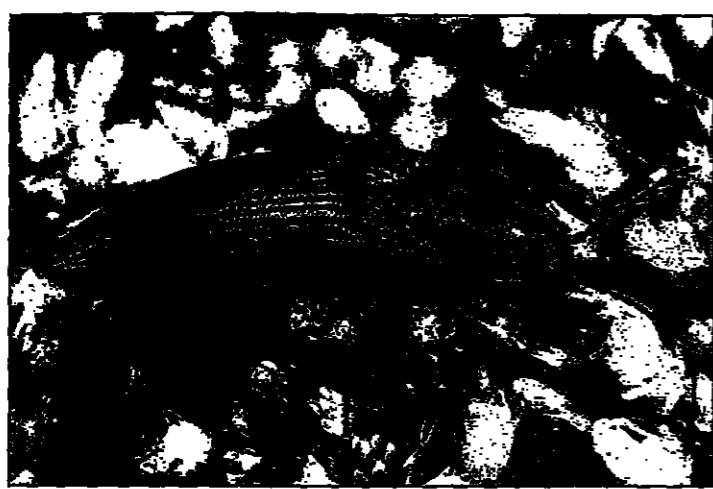
The mixture is being rotted down in green plastic compost bins to provide the violet click beetle with artificial homes which will last until nature can provide the real thing in the middle of the next century.

The half-inch long beetle (pictured), which gets its name from the click it makes when leaping a foot into the air to escape predators, has been in Britain since the last Ice Age and lived profusely in the hollowed centres of old trees throughout the ancient forests which once covered the country.

It is now found in only 45 trees in Windsor Great Park and 17 ashes at a nature reserve on Bredon Hill, South Worcestershire. It is even rarer in the rest of Europe and is a European protected species.

But there is a serious time bomb ticking away at the Bredon Hill site which is being designated an European Union special area of conservation simply because of the violet click beetle's presence there.

Because of indiscriminate timber harvesting in the early years of the 20th century, there is now chronic shortage of prime ashes aged about 70-80 years. This means that when the 150-year-old trees, in which the



beetle currently resides, reach the end of their life, there will be no replacement dwellings at a suitable stage of their life cycle.

And that, the experts hope, is where the compost bins will come into their own by providing temporary shelter until younger ashes which age comparatively quickly, have reached a suitable stage of living decay.

"The bins are a quick way of recreating the innards of an old tree and should prove very beetle friendly once they have stood for a while," said Peter Holmes, English Nature's Worcestershire Conservation Officer.

"The hollow centres of old trees contain rotting wood, bird droppings and dead animals and birds and we are simply trying to mimic that environment."

Five bins are being set up initially and more will follow once Dr. Holmes' team is happy that the contents are rotting down into a realistic mixture.

If the scheme is successful, it is hoped in the long term to reintroduce the species into other areas of Britain by the simple expedient of moving bins full of resident beetles onto suitable new sites.

"It is pure luck that this beast has survived at Bredon and very little is known about it because it is so scarce and therefore very difficult to study," Dr Holmes added.

"We do not even know, for example, whether it is a predator living off other insects or whether it eats the rotting debris.

"This is a very long-term project because it will take five to ten years before the new homes are even ready for use, but we intend to see it through. Our aim is to make sure the Violet Click Beetle is not a has-been, but a has-bin."

— Chris Mobray

CONTENTS

The way we live	3	Comment	15
Education news	5	Obituaries	16
Scots' heritage	6	Business	18-19
Legal news	7	Sport	Special section
Despatches	9	Media +	Special section
World news	10	Crossword	The Eye, 9
Thinkers	11	Games	The Eye, 9
Style	12	Weather	The Eye, 10
Features	13	Radio	The Eye, 11
Leader: letters	14	TV	The Eye, 12

7.30 FOR 8



by Chris Priestley

ZITS



by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

For savings on hundreds of other destinations and to open an account call us now! Comparisons with B.T.'s standard weekday rates. Prices are correct as of 01.10.97 & are in pence per minute. Please have your credit card ready when you call. Visit our website: www.swiftcall.com Also Telstar page 384

SWIFTCALL

Surprisingly cheap international calls

0800 769 0066



Shoppers force big stores to behave ethically

A 'counter revolution' to bring ethical policies to supermarkets has started. But Glenda Cooper, Consumer Affairs Correspondent, says Third World workers still wait to see them translated into reality.

Consumer power works, says the charity Christian Aid. A year after the charity launched the drive to make supermarkets adopt more ethical policies, seven of the biggest chains

have done so and six are drawing up codes of conduct.

But the charity warns that in places such as the banana plantations of Costa Rica conditions are still 'a world apart from the language of workers' rights and good labour practice being discussed in the company boardrooms'.

When Christian Aid started its Global Supermarket campaign last year, tens of thousands of consumers responded, handing in receipts worth millions of pounds back to supermarket managers and sending tens of thousands of letters to super-

market directors. One church in London collected more than £45,000 in till receipts in two months and handed them back to local supermarkets.

In 12 months an industry worth £28bn in total responded. "In this process of flexing their muscles, consumers are creating a new form of citizenship," said Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy at Thames Valley University, and a member of an expert panel set up by Christian Aid to monitor the supermarkets.

The charity drew up an extensive questionnaire, judged by

ETHICAL TOP TEN

1. Tesco
2. Safeway and Sainsbury's
3. CWS
4. ASDA
5. Waitrose
6. Kwik Save
7. Somerfield
8. Morrison's
9. Marks & Spencer

an independent panel, to test the supermarket's commitment to ethical trading policies.

Sources said yesterday that the supermarkets had been unhappy with the idea of a league

table ranking the different stores for their ethical policies and had used "heavy persuasion" and "a variety of arguments" to try to dissuade Christian Aid. During a series of tense meetings, however, the charity had made it clear they were determined to publish, which the chains accepted.

The report found that Tesco had made the most progress, while Morrison's and Marks & Spencer lagged far behind. Sainsbury's, which came joint second, has been running pilot schemes to see how codes of conduct, which look at workers'

pay and conditions, will work in practice. Tesco and Safeway both plan to include ethical trading as an item in their 1998 Annual Report. CWS and Sainsbury have earmarked money to cover a pilot phase of ethical trading and Tesco has already made as much as £2m.

Of the seven who have adopted a corporate policy, only Kwik Save have set neither concrete targets or objectives and Asda and Tesco have set goals for both the next year and the next five years.

While Christian Aid applauds the progress that has

been made, it warns that good ideas have yet to be translated into reality. "It is good to see that supermarkets are aware at last that they must respond to consumer demand for ethical and fairly traded food, but their stated commitment is not yet translating through to enough products on their shelves," said Joanna Blythman, the food journalist and a member of the expert panel.

'Change at the checkout? super markets and ethical business' (£3.50), is available from Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

When Mum and Dad smoke dope, what do they tell the children? A middle-class, professional couple's dilemma



An avid Manchester United fan walks with his father through the tunnel yesterday at Old Trafford, the team's home ground, clutching branded sports goods bought in the club's megastore

Photograph: Steve Hill/Newsbeam

HEALTH
How hairdressers can do your head in – and the woman who is campaigning to change the law



High Street Rovers: how football plans to score in the fashion business

Leading Premier League football clubs, including Manchester United, Newcastle and Liverpool, are in talks to establish a chain of shops selling new ranges of clothing, team kits and merchandise. Andrew Yates looks at the latest attempts by the clubs to exploit their powerful brands.

er parts of the country. We would also look at shops with clubs in Europe."

Newcastle is keen to open its first shop in a London airport and has held preliminary talks with BAA, which runs Heathrow and Gatwick airports, about finding a large site. It is also eyeing up new outlets on the high street.

Manchester United and Liverpool are considering joining forces with the Geordies. Other big clubs are also understood to be interested in doing a deal. However, Newcastle is likely to forge ahead with new stores of its own even if other teams decide to drop out.

The shops will sell leisure clothing ranges and replica kits as well as anything from wallets to ties embossed with club logos. Newcastle will stock its own clothing range, called 1892, which has been developed by George Davies, the former head of Next who has also developed clothes for Asda. The club may even buy in Liverpool and Manchester United shirts and football merchandise to sell in its shops if the other teams

decide not to take a stake in the new venture.

The first shops are likely to be in London, but if the experiment proves successful stores will be rolled out across the UK and into Europe's major cities.

Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle are the best supported clubs in the UK. If the clubs do establish a national chain of stores, the move could pose a big threat to the plethora of sports-clothes shops that have exploded onto the high street over the past 10 years, such as JJB Sports and the World of Football.

Football is becoming an increasingly commercial business with clubs looking at a host of new ways to exploit their brand name.

Manchester United set the ball rolling by introducing an extensive range of merchandise products at its club shop. Ardent supporters can now buy golf balls, cheque book holders and even luxury soap.

Next, the major clubs plan to set up their own television channels, which fans would

pay a monthly fee to watch. Manchester United has already signed a deal with Granada and Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster BSkyB to establish MUTV. The channel will, from next autumn, broadcast magazine-style programmes about players and the club as well as friendly and reserve team games. Newcastle, Leeds and many other Premier League clubs are known to be planning their own pay-TV ventures.

The clubs are also hatching plans to expand their home-shopping businesses, selling clothing ranges via catalogues, through television channels and on the Internet.

If all that was not enough, English clubs are turning their attention overseas in a bid to tap the millions of fans they have around the globe. Newcastle has just signed a deal to sell its clothes ranges in Scandinavia and is in negotiations with a wholesaler in Hong Kong to establish a business in Asia. Manchester United is also in talks with local suppliers to start selling its clothes throughout the Far East.

The country's biggest football clubs are looking to cash in on the huge growth in the leisure-wear industry by setting up their own shops. They also want to team up with the biggest football clubs on the Continent to establish an international retailing business.

Freddie Fletcher, chief executive of Newcastle United, said: "We are just about to open our sixth shop in Newcastle which is enough for us. Now we are anxious to open shops with various British partners in other

Drivers face 10-year refresher tests

Motorists may have to take a refresher driving test every 10 years in an effort to reduce the number of accidents, it emerged yesterday.

Under plans being drawn up by the European Parliament, those who failed the test would lose their licences, according to a report on BBC Radio 4's *Europe Now* programme last night.

MEPs believe the scheme would help reduce the number of road accidents – 45,000 people are killed on Europe's roads every year – and argue making drivers retake the test would force them to correct bad or dangerous driving habits.

Plans are already under discussion to reduce the drink-drive limit in a new European-wide limit of 50 microgrammes per 100ml. The new level, dubbed "more than one and you're done", will mean drivers could safely have only one pint of beer or two glasses of wine.

Although considerably lower than the present British limit of 80 microgrammes per 100ml, a maximum intake of 50 microgrammes per 100ml is already the maximum permitted in France, Holland, Austria and Greece.

MEPs are also concerned by an upsurge in aggressive driving and incidents of "road rage". Re-testing, it is claimed, would enable examiners to fail such motorists and strip them of their licences because of their attitude.

Some motoring organisations approve of the idea, claiming that lessons and refresher tests would improve driving standards, but ministers are understood to be against the scheme.

They say it should be left to the courts to deal with dangerous drivers.

The Automobile Association is also against the plans. Rebecca Rees, a spokeswoman for the AA, said: "The AA

can't see any real road safety benefit in testing every driver every 10 years.

"It's not really addressing the people who cause the majority of road accidents, which are youngsters."

"Another problem will be enforcement and administration. Driving test centres are already stretched."

Recent changes in the law in Britain mean drivers face a re-test if they notch up six penalty points within two years of gaining a full driving licence.

Ms Rees added: "Most drivers in the UK are safe drivers. To make everybody take a driving test every 10 years would have no real safety benefit at all."

Britain has the lowest road accident death rate in the European Union: roads in the UK are seven times safer than in Greece – the country with the worst record.

— Kate Watson-Smyth

ORDINARY
current accounts are a thing of the past

Switch to an
EXTRAORDINARY
current account



Ordinary banking is not something you have to put up with, it's something you can change. If your current account can't match the Alliance Account, it's time to switch.

As you can see from our excellent credit interest rates, 24-hour service and low overdraft rates, the Alliance Account is no ordinary current account. And if you apply before 31 October 1997, we'll add £30 to your balance.

Switching is simple

We'll even help with the paperwork to make switching your account easy. For more details and an application form, complete and return the coupon below or call us FREE on 0500 95 95 95 now, quoting reference N259.

To welcome you to the Alliance Account
WE'LL ADD £30 TO YOUR BALANCE

Apply before 31 October 1997

Please send me more information about the Alliance Account from Alliance & Leicester plc. (Please use BLOCK CAPITALS.)

£30 added to your balance when you open your account

24 hour telephone banking, 365 days a year

Generous credit interest of up to 3.0% gross p.a.

Low approved overdraft rates of 0.76% per month (EAR 9.50% variable) with no monthly fee or set up charge

Access to your money through around 350 branches, 20,000 Post Offices and almost 12,000 LINK cash machines

Tel. No. (Home) _____ (Work) _____
Date of birth _____ / _____ / _____
Are you an Alliance & Leicester customer? Yes No

Return to: Alliance & Leicester plc, FREEPOST (L5948), Leeds LS2 8AL.
N259

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
No ordinary current account



Call FREE 0500 95 95 95

Quoting reference N259

Hume asks Blair for abortion lead

Cardinal Basil Hume yesterday called on the Prime Minister to convince the Labour Party and the British nation that "abortion is wrong".

The leader of the Catholic church, who this week had joined a "pro-life chain" of anti-abortion protesters marking today's 30th anniversary of the Abortion Act, said he wanted to change the "minds and hearts" of people in order to stop abortions.

He told GMTV's *Sunday* programme: "My message to Tony Blair would be, 'You are a man of integrity ... and you see things clearly. I would have thought you should give leadership within your party, and try to convince them that abortion is wrong and that we ought, as a nation, to do something about it.' He added that people used to accept slavery but now everyone appreciated how wrong it was, and that the same would be true of abortion. "In 100 years' time, perhaps less, people will come to see this really was a grave scandal in our society at this period."

He claimed that nearly 5 million lives had been taken by legal abortions in the past 30 years, and hoped the Prime Minister would try to change his party's attitude to abortion.

Lord Steel, who piloted the Abortion Act through the Commons 30 years ago, stood by the original law because of the damage being done by backstreet abortions before the process was legalised.

Speaking on the same programme, Lord Steel said: "The decisions made by Parliament, on a free vote, by convincing majorities in both Houses, were absolutely right. It's very easy for people now to forget what Britain was like 30 years ago.

"People forget that we had ... between 30 and 50 women a year dying as a result of criminal abortion, people forget that the public wards of every hospital were cluttered with patients admitted for what was called septic or incomplete abortion, nobody knew how many people committed suicide."

Lord Steel said he respected the Roman Catholic position but added: "Neither Cardinal Hume nor anyone else should inflict their particular view on the rest of the population."

"Anyone who wants to abolish the Act or restrict the Act in any way will have us back to the desperate situation which existed in the 1940s and 1950s in this country."

Letters, page 14
Polly Toynbee, page 15



Lockerbie families back trial move

Flanked by relatives of victims of the 1988 Lockerbie bomb, a Scottish law professor yesterday argued that only 142 words were needed for the trial of two Libyan suspects to be held in a "neutral" country.

Professor Robert Black, of the University of Edinburgh, presented a proposed amendment to the Scottish Criminal Justice Bill, which he said had taken just 45 minutes to draft. He argued that it belied British government claims that there were too many practical obstacles to the proposal that the men accused of blowing up Pan Am

flight 103, killing 270 people, be tried in a country other than Scotland or the United States.

The proposal – which is supported by the Organisation of African Unity, the Arab League and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi – was controversially lobbied for at the weekend by South African President Nelson Mandela at the Commonwealth Conference, after he dropped in on the Libyan leader en route to Edinburgh.

Yesterday, Dr Jim Swire, spokesman for the British relatives, who now support a neutral venue, thanked President

Mandela for his intervention. Clutching a picture of his daughter Flora, who died in the explosion, Dr Swire (above) accused Britain of "sycophantically" following the US government in demanding that the trial be held in Scotland or America.

Dr Swire reminded those present that while the bombing has become an international political football it involved the "brutal premeditated murder of totally innocent people". It was, he said, the families' tragedy, not something for politicians and lawyers to play with.

Mary Braid

Gates predicts end of telephone numbers

Telephone numbers will disappear in the future, according to the Microsoft chairman, Bill Gates.

In his latest syndicated column, reproduced at the Microsoft Web site, Mr Gates spells out his belief that there are problems with telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in

their present form. "Telephone numbers will disappear", and computer software will take over the way people communicate, he wrote in response to a question from someone identified only as encounter@farpoint.org.

"First you will indicate whom you want to contact, selecting

from a personal address book or a large directory, then you'll choose what kind of contact you want. Software will take care of the rest."

Telephone numbers "aren't a great way to identify people" – they are "inadequate addresses in a world exploding with communication", he added.

— David McKittrick

The New Tudor Chronograph, around £1,000.



Available in a choice of black or steel bezel, with either a black, white, red, green, silver or blue dial with either a leather strap or steel bracelet. Waterproof to fifty metres, scratchproof glass, with a Swiss made, self-winding mechanical movement.

A comprehensive range of Tudor models and further information is available from:

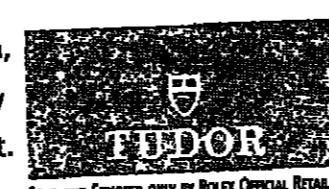
GOLDSMITHS



WALKER & HALL

The first officially appointed Rolex stockists in the UK.

For more information about your local jeweller, please call 0800 GOLDSMITHS (0800 465 376).



SOLD AND SERVICED ONLY BY ROLEX OFFICIAL RETAILERS

DAILY POEM

The Schoolboy at Home

by Richard Hill Sandys

The pony's lame, the cat is dead,
The pigs are in the tulip bed;
The fife with rubbish has been filled;
And all my lady's plants are killed;
A strange wet cur of low degree
Is planted on the rich settee;
The grave mackaw has lost his tail,
And slowly tears a Brussels veil;
The pistol's cleaned with sister's shawl,
For midday practice in the hall;
And little Jane so prim and good,
Is scampering wild about the wood;
The maids are whimpering with affright,
Because a ghost was seen last night;
The linen's burnt, the roller's split,
The tangled chain won't turn the spit;
The ale is running all about,
And in the urn's a ragged clout;
And all around, at every pass,
Is smash and clash and broken glass;
And here's a neighbour come to fret,
And, mercy! there's a hive upset!

This week's poems come from the new, 800-page *Penguin Book of Victorian Verse*, selected and edited by Daniel Karlin (Allen Lane/The Penguin Press, £25). Richard Hill Sandys, a barrister, published his only volume of verse in 1847.

BA checks 777 jet fleet

British Airways has launched a series of checks on its fleet of giant Boeing 777s after warnings of a design fault.

The manufacturer, General Electric, is insisting on inspecting the airline's 30 GE90 engines after discovering tiny cracks on a key part.

The 2mm-wide cracks on the seals which rotate with the fan blades are the latest problem to dog production of the jet engines. Now, after inspecting the engines on BA's 14-strong fleet of 777s GE must then adapt them to prevent the fault reappearing. BA insisted the fault did not jeopardise passenger safety. However, the airline was taking no chances.

Lottery win

Four ticketholders shared Saturday's National Lottery prize of more than £8m. The winning numbers were 10, 21, 27, 38, 40, and 44. The bonus was 34.

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET



"Can I answer with no passes?"

LineOne has the answer to your questions. Being an Internet service provider, it boasts an encyclopaedic profile of thousands of celebrities and stars and their answers to your questions. You'll never need to search for an answer, unless you're looking for one that's not there.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210



It's what you want to know

After your free trial LineOne is available from as little as £4.95 per month.

Progressive school faces closure after inspectors call



Pupil power: Children in the library at Summerhill, after voting to let in the photographer. Photograph: Sunday Telegraph

Summerhill, the progressive Suffolk school where lessons are optional and children make the rules, has fallen foul of Her Majesty's Inspectors once too often. Lucy Ward, Education

Correspondent, says that if it does not toe the line it could be forced to close, after 76 years.

A government threat to close Summerhill school unless it achieves "minimum educational standards" puts at risk alternative forms of education, its head teacher said yesterday.

Zoe Readhead, daughter of Summerhill's progressive founder, AS Neil, pledged to shut the school herself rather than compromise her father's vision of a "free school" whose liberal ethos has inspired and infuriated educationists in equal measure.

Mrs Readhead has six months in which to convince officials from the Department

for Education and Employment that her school, where some children do not learn to read until the age of eight, can sit within Labour's uncompromising back-to-basics philosophy after inspectors visiting for a day last summer found evidence of weaknesses in maths and English teaching.

A letter to the head this term from the DfEE allows Summerhill until next spring to make improvements. If it fails to do so, David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, will intervene and the school will be served with a Notice of Complaint, potentially leading to its removal from the department's register of approved independent schools. Without registration, the school cannot legally operate.

Squeezing out alternative schools such as Summerhill could lead to greater homogeneity in education, Mrs Readhead warned yesterday. "I think if they start with Summerhill they will continue ... I am disappointed that a Labour government seems to be taking this line. There are schools run on similar lines run all over the world and any threat to Summerhill is a threat to them."

The school, set in a rambling house near Leiston, Suffolk, has regularly attracted criticism from inspectors. A 1994 report by the inspection agency Ofsted noted that staff and pupils' shared interest in "unconventional extra-curricular activities" including nude bathing, and contrasted the "smart new animal centre" with the scruffiness of some pupil accommodation.

Mrs Readhead plans to work with inspectors to seek a compromise, but insists that the school's policy of optional lessons is non-negotiable. "You can't say to children you are free to do what you want but then say you have got to be in maths by 9 o'clock because I say so."

Only a vote by pupils, who meet each week to devise and enforce their own school rules, or Laws, could change the policy.

Former pupil Jason Sykes, 30, at Summerhill from 1972-83 and now a chiropractor, strongly defends the quality of his education. Most pupils at the school, which last summer achieved 63 good GCSE passes out of 98 exams taken, go on to further education and university, he points out.

Higher standards in rural areas

• The Government is to extend an pilot scheme, aimed at raising school standards in the inner cities, to some remote rural areas. Poverty-stricken county areas are to be given extra support as "education action zones".

During the general election campaign, Labour promised city-based zones which would aim to cut truancy, improve discipline and achieve greater numbers of exam passes.

Although most people assume that the worst poverty exists in urban areas, some local authorities have pointed out that there are also many remote areas where wages are low, unemployment is high and school achievement is unsatisfactory.

These areas struggle with the twin problems of low parental expectations and high costs caused by the need for extra transport and smaller schools.

A source at the Department of Education and Employment said consultation on its recent White Paper had raised the issue.

"I think what we are doing is to recognise that the issues many urban areas face can apply in rural areas as well," he said.

Bids will be invited for up to 25 pilot areas which will receive extra support. An action forum in each zone, which will include parents, business people and community representatives, will

set targets for improvement, plan reorganisations and even propose new schools. It will have first call on a range of government initiatives, such as homework centres and specialist schools, and may be able to attract extra "advanced skills teachers".

Other extra support might include bringing in a head teacher from outside the zone to give help to one or more of the area's schools.

It is not yet clear how much extra cash will be available to the action zones, though it is thought there might be some grants on offer.

Details will be published in the Government's Education Bill, expected to be published around the third week in November.

Today, ministers are expected to announce concessions on another part of the Bill - church schools - after meeting religious leaders to discuss the issue.

The bishops had threatened to vote down parts of the Bill in the House of Lords.

Changes are expected to include a reversal on plans to cut numbers of church governors and a concession over proposals that 2,700 voluntary controlled schools should become foundation schools - placing them in the same category as the former opted-out schools.

— Fran Abrams



THE INDEPENDENT

Win a set of MGM Westerns and a "Magnificent Seven" days in Arizona



The MGM Westerns collection includes the very best in western movie history.

Unforgettable scenes from these classics will tempt every western movie buff to own this invaluable collection: *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*; *For a Few Dollars More*; *The Magnificent Seven*; *The Horse Soldiers*; *The Alamo*; *Hang 'em High*; *How The West Was One*; *The Kentuckians*; *Red River*; *The Scalpshunters*; *Pat Garrett and Billy The Kid* and *The Big Country*.

The magnificent seven days 'holiday' with

Funway Holidays, will be in Scottsdale, Arizona "the west's most western town" for 2 adults, staying at the Hospitality Suite Resort, including a weeks car rental and return non-stop scheduled flights to Phoenix.

To enter this competition simply dial 0930 567 717, answer the following question on line leaving your name and full address:

In which Californian town did Clint Eastwood serve as Mayor?

The holiday is to be taken between 1 November and 31 December (excluding 25-26 Dec). For a copy of the brochure 1998 USA - Any Way You Like brochure call 0181 466 0232, subject to availability.

Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Winner picked at random after lines close 29 October 1997. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

Who's delivered *high returns* and *low charges*?

An *open and shut* case for Legal & General's UK Tracker PEP.

Whose All-Share Index Tracking PEP has produced impressive results that have consistently outperformed other PEPs tracking this index? Who else could have turned £6,000 into £8,526* in just 22 months? Whose PEP offers an investment tracking the All-Share Index for no initial charge, no exit charge and an annual management charge of only 0.5%? And who else has been successfully helping people make the most of their money over 160 years, managing in excess of £54 billion as at June 1997? The answer, of course, is Legal & General.

0560 11 66 22
LINES OPEN 8am TO 8pm WEEKDAYS and 9am TO 5pm WEEKENDS. PLEASE QUOTE REF: GNB
For your protection calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored. <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

Legal &
General

trust us to deliver

*Source LGDN, on an offer to bid basis based on all PEP charges with gross income re-invested from 01.11.95 (since launch) to 15.09.97. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. From 06.04.99 tax credits will no longer be able to be reclaimed by PEPs investing in equity based unit trusts. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax assumptions are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in Unit Trusts. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 15.09.97. In the 1997 Budget the Government announced its intention to launch Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) from April 1999 to build upon the experience of PEPs and TSEAs. However, there is no firm indication of what will happen to PEPs when the new account is launched. Legal & General (Direct) Limited, Registered in England No. 2702690 Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMA for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

How women will lose when doctors get it wrong

The Lord Chancellor's plans to abolish legal aid for most civil claims will stop deserving cases reaching the court, say lawyers. Medical negligence actions will be among the worst hit. Michael Streeter and Glenda Cooper look at opposition to the reforms.

ical reports - before the lawyers can assess whether a case is winnable or not. Such up-front fees will dissuade victims from having even the necessary groundwork done - and the case will not go ahead.

Other law firms specialising in cases of individuals against public bodies such as the police, immigration and housing authorities fear the risk of conditional fees will drastically reduce court actions.

Louis Christian, of solicitors Christian, Fletcher, who specialise in such cases, said the reforms would force the firm away from such work because of the risks and high costs.

"The people who will suffer will be clients wishing to claim damages from the police, government or government-related authorities and the whole cause of accountability and justice."

The difficulty of such cases is that though they may raise issues of great importance - for example ill-treatment of a prisoner in a cell - they may not attract huge damages, may need costly preparation work and may rely on the evidence of the victim only.

Campaigning bodies such as the Legal Action Group accept that conditional fees could exist as an alternative to legal aid - but not as a substitute.

Roger Smith, director of LAG, said: "It simply does not make economic sense to target a group of the poorest people ... for a major cut in compensation."

The Government's aim is to reduce the £671m legal aid bill for civil cases, around £300m of which is for damages and monetary claims the area under attack.

Another area of concern for opponents of the reforms is that, with conditional fees, a losing plaintiff has to pay for the defendant's costs. One suggestion is for an insurance system, already in use in some personal injury claims, to be extended.

However, the cost of premiums in medical negligence cases could run into thousands of pounds - costs way beyond the means of poorer claimants and which neither legal firms nor the Government would be claiming to pay.

According to the solicitor Sarah Harman, the full horror of the recent cervical smear test scare at a Kent hospital trust would never have been uncovered if the new legal aid reforms had been in operation.

An internal inquiry published in February - later described as "economical with the truth" - had underestimated the number of women injured and failed to point out that five women had died.

"Matters could have ended [then] had it not been for the number of cases proceeding against the trust with the benefit of legal aid," said Ms Harman, of the Canterbury-based solicitors Harman & Harman.

The fact that some women affected got legal aid not only meant they were able to win compensation, it also led to an independent inquiry, published last week, which uncovered the scale of the problems at Kent and Canterbury hospital.

The full extent of the smear reporting, the involvement and indifference of hospital staff at all levels and the number of women affected would not have been revealed had it not been for the existence of legal aid," said Ms Harman.

She and other lawyers are worried that Lord Irvine of Laird's proposals to replace legal aid with a no-win, no-fee conditional system for civil cases involving a claim for damages will deny access to justice for many poorer people. Issues of public importance will also go untested. Medical negligence cases involve expensive preparation work - for example med-

ical reports - before the lawyers can assess whether a case is winnable or not. Such up-front fees will dissuade victims from having even the necessary groundwork done - and the case will not go ahead.

Other law firms specialising in cases of individuals against public bodies such as the police, immigration and housing authorities fear the risk of conditional fees will drastically reduce court actions.

Louis Christian, of solicitors Christian, Fletcher, who specialise in such cases, said the reforms would force the firm away from such work because of the risks and high costs.

"The people who will suffer will be clients wishing to claim damages from the police, government or government-related authorities and the whole cause of accountability and justice."

The difficulty of such cases is that though they may raise issues of great importance - for example ill-treatment of a prisoner in a cell - they may not attract huge damages, may need costly preparation work and may rely on the evidence of the victim only.

Campaigning bodies such as the Legal Action Group accept that conditional fees could exist as an alternative to legal aid - but not as a substitute.

Roger Smith, director of LAG, said: "It simply does not make economic sense to target a group of the poorest people ... for a major cut in compensation."

The Government's aim is to reduce the £671m legal aid bill for civil cases, around £300m of which is for damages and monetary claims the area under attack.

Another area of concern for opponents of the reforms is that, with conditional fees, a losing plaintiff has to pay for the defendant's costs. One suggestion is for an insurance system, already in use in some personal injury claims, to be extended.

However, the cost of premiums in medical negligence cases could run into thousands of pounds - costs way beyond the means of poorer claimants and which neither legal firms nor the Government would be claiming to pay.



Sian McGregor: Legal aid allowed her to bring her case

Photograph: Mike Gunnill

'It's a moral thing. If you don't push, nothing is done'

Sian McGregor would never have brought her case for medical negligence and distress against Kent and Canterbury Hospitals NHS Trust if she had not had the option of legal aid: "I couldn't have afforded to do that. I felt it was morally right to sue but I just couldn't have stood the anxiety."

In her 40s and living in Canterbury, she had smears in May and November 1993, October 1995 and May 1996. There had been borderline changes noted, but otherwise she had been given the all-clear. In reality she had developed two cancerous tumours and at one point faced having a hysterectomy.

"They should have referred me to a gynaecologist after the

two smears in 1993 but they didn't," says Sian. "They said there were small changes but not serious enough for further investigation."

When news began to emerge about the problems with cervical testing at Kent and Canterbury, she says: "I was very worried. And I wasn't one of those who was recalled because as far as they concerned I was already in the system. But if the negative slides could be causing problems, then what about me, when I had already shown borderline problems?"

"It wasn't until this year that she finally had treatment for her problem. She avoided having a hysterectomy but had a 'loop' where cells are burned

away under local anaesthetic to remove the two tumours. "It's terrible - all you can smell is burning flesh."

She rang a support group, which suggested that she get in touch with Sarah Harman, a Kent solicitor and the sister of Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, who has been co-ordinating claims against the hospital. "More than anything I wanted a second opinion on what had happened to me. I was very, very worried."

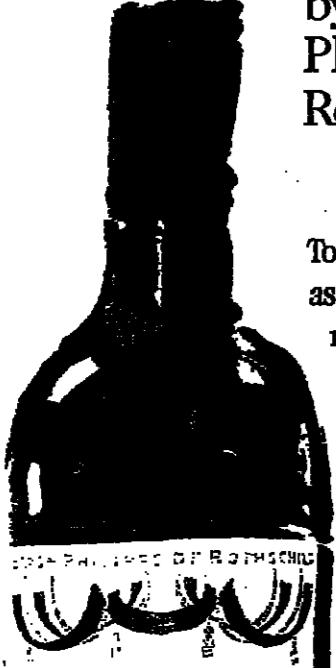
"To me it's a moral thing - you have got to do something rather than talk about it. If you don't push then nothing will get changed. But there was no way I could have afforded to do it."

— Glenda Cooper



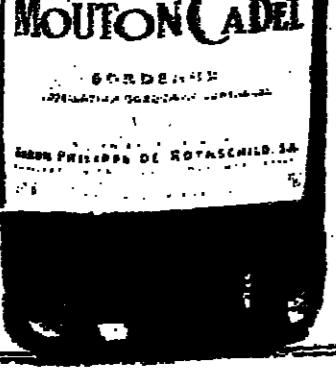
L'Art de l'Assemblage

by Baron Philippe de Rothschild



To create wine as good as this you need a tongue like a tuning fork.

To enjoy it, all you need is a corkscrew and a friend.



MOUTON CADET
FINE VINTAGE WINES
from Bordeaux.

THE NEW CLIO BIARRITZ.

AT JUST £7895, IT WON'T DENY YOU THE ODD TREAT.

All you lovers of the good life, feast your eyes on the new Renault Clio Biarritz. A special edition Clio that makes driving a pleasure - at a price that will keep plenty of other pleasures within reach too.

From its tilt-and-slide sunroof to its 5-speed gearbox, everything about the new Biarritz spells enjoyment. A Philips stereo radio/cassette will set your ears a-glowing, while the body

will have jaws dropping wherever you go.

Mind you, the Biarritz is not only fun - it's sensible too. Sensible enough to feature remote control central locking, side impact protection bars, front seat belt pretensioners and the option of both driver's and passenger's airbags, in fact. There's even a computer padlock engine immobiliser to ensure no uninvited guest spoils the party.

But at just £7895* on the road for the 3-door version,

perhaps the most enjoyable thing of all about the Renault Clio Biarritz is how little it costs. Especially with one year's free insurance* included, plus the option of 0% finance. In fact, with Renault Freeways* available too, buying a new Renault has never been so easy.

For more information and details of your nearest Renault Dealer, just call 0800 52 51 50. You're in for a treat.



RENAULT

WITH 0% FINANCE AND ONE YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE

All Renault Clos have a 12-month roadside assistance warranty plus an 8-year self-service warranty and Renault Accidental Service facility. *Finance contract or form of going to press include 17.25% VAT and "Buy-in" charge which covers delivery to the dealer, number plate, security window locking and 12 months' Comprehensive road fund licence. Other grants or services supplied by agreement between the customer and dealer are not included. *Finance offer subject to stated apply to any new Renault Clio Biarritz ordered and registered by 30th November 1997. Normal example: Clio Biarritz 3-door, Cash price £1, deposit £2947.48, monthly repayment £2,223.50, total credit price £27,895. Minimum age 17-75 and hold a current UK or Irish (Northern Ireland only) driving licence with no disqualifications within the last 5 years, no driving convictions or offences pending as detailed in the policy, subject to conditions. See your Renault dealer for details. This advertisement is placed on behalf of the vehicle importer Renault UK Ltd, Wimborne Park, Wimborne, Dorset DT9 1HT, and not individual franchise holders. REFINANCING GEF

Not so true blue in Tories' traditional heartland

The Winchester by-election campaign begins today, with polling on 20 November. The contest follows a successful court challenge by the former Tory minister Gerry Malone to a two-vote defeat in May by the Liberal Democrats. But, as Fran Abrams discovered, voters in this previously true-blue Tory heartland may not be ready to return to the fold just yet.

"The sooner every party breaks up the better," remarked Mr Woodhouse in Jane Austen's *Emma*. In Winchester, where the author is buried, some of the voters would probably agree. "At last!" begins a letter in



the *Hampshire Chronicle*. The local populace simply want the sorry saga "over and done with," opines another.

At first glance, this does not look like a place in need of such excitement. In fact, if a US

leisure conglomerate were to manufacture a "build your own idyllic slice of historic Middle England" kit, it would probably be based on Winchester. There

is a famous public school, Winchester College, a strong army

connection and simply acres of half-timbering. There are a couple of housing estates, but comfortingly the tourist maps are full of almshouses.

All this will not necessarily work for Gerry Malone: some

people feel that challenging the result just wasn't the sort of thing a gentleman would do. A retired officer type was recently heard to remark: "It isn't on, is it? When the umpire gives you out, that's it."

But there is more to Winchester than this. Scratch below the surface, locals say, and you will find a place far more switched on to politics than the traditional tea-shops and the gun-sellers might suggest.

The *Chronicle* is positively bristling with comment on the by-election (seven letters criticising Gerry Malone or the Tories and one accusing Mark Oaten (the Liberal Democrat MP) of excessive self-promotion, not that anything can be read into such a small sample) and practically everyone seems to have an opinion on what went wrong.

Divided it stands: Winchester is the sort of place the Tories could take for granted not so long ago. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

borne, a local heir believed drowned off South America in 1954. Thirteen years later when a man turned up claiming to be Sir Roger and wanting the family seat back, most people reacted with disbelief.

Like Mr Malone, he took to the courts to prove his identity but to no avail. He was denounced as a perjurer and went to a pauper's grave 18 years later still proclaiming his rights.

Mr Malone need not be too downhearted, though. There are still an awful lot of natural Tories in Winchester and in its rural hinterland. Many of them may be fed up, but at heart they are still in the clan - after all, Mr Malone defended a 9,000 majority in May.

Mr Oaten has two advantages. One is that he can appeal to the disillusioned by not being a Tory, and the other is a high local profile. Mr Malone faced criticism on this count, a charge he responds to with a barrage of facts about numbers of surgeries and letters of gratitude from constituents.

The party is clearly not over yet. Protest as they may, the voters will suffer much disruption to their comfortable life in the next few weeks. And the outcome still looks too close to call.



IBM is now offering PCs at a lower price than you ever thought possible. But, of course, you still benefit from the

performance, reliability and security you expect from IBM. The IBM PC300CL, for instance, has a 166MHz Pentium® processor

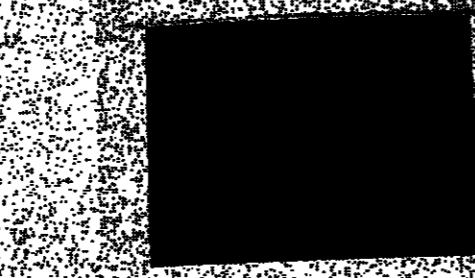
with MMX™ technology, 2.5GB hard drive, and IBM's unique Wake on LAN, for superior manageability. Features you'd

normally pay a considerable premium for.

To find out just how inexpensive the PC300CL can be, call Action Computer Supplies on the number below, Inmac on 0990 168 356, Solution Point on 0345 581 590 or Technomatic on 0990 275 111. As a desktop buyer, you won't find better figures anywhere.

experience

This ten figure number change your mind.



0800 333 333

0800 333 333

Specialists in computer systems

KEEPIN' WORKIN' SLIGHT

Different ages, different expertise
inspiration, leadership, the mix

After a year at Sandhurst you'll

be a better team

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

G 30 MEN ING TOGE LY HARD

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Army Officers should be of good
character, 18-37, or 21-40, 5'5" or
taller, RMAF, RMA, RMC, RMAFS
ADDRESS

The Army is committed to Equal Opportunities

Greeks furious as UK woos Ankara

EU governments are struggling to prevent the 23-year-old conflict between Turkey and Cyprus from wrecking plans to expand the bloc, reports Katherine Butler in Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg

Divisions over the status of Turkey are threatening to come to a head during the British EU presidency, following Britain's announcement at the weekend that it wants to invite Ankara to the opening by the Queen of a pan-European "enlargement conference" in London in February.

High-level EU talks with Ankara are to be launched urgently to avert a crisis triggered by Greek anger at the prospect of Turkey's inclusion in any enlargement structure, however symbolic. The latest row follows directly from the decision to put Cyprus on a shortlist of six applicants with whom membership talks will open in March.

EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg at the weekend gave qualified backing to a selective enlargement strategy whereby five of the most de-

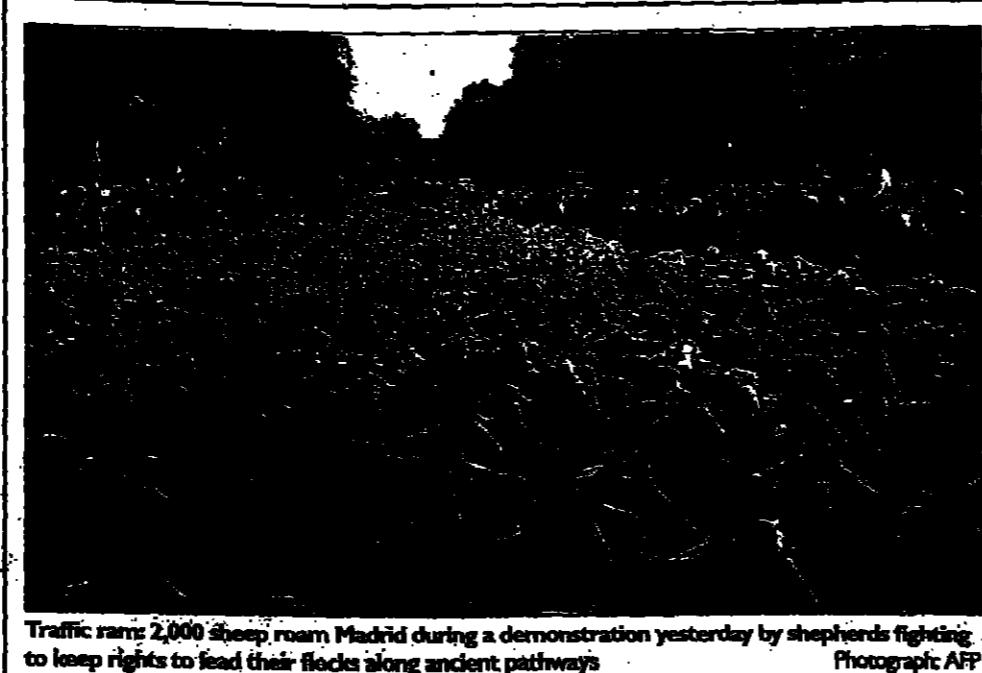
veloped former Soviet bloc countries (Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia and Slovenia), and also Cyprus, would be invited to become the first wave of new member states. But the approach has sharpened the dilemma over Turkey, which has been pressing for membership since 1963.

Ankara fears Cypriot admission to the EU will lessen its chances and is threatening to veto peace talks on the divided island if the EU opens negotiations with the Greek Cypriot authorities alone.

Britain's push to acknowledge Turkey's membership of "Europe's family" by granting Ankara a place in the standing conference designed to promote links with all EU hopefuls has exposed the divisions.

Greek minister Theodoros Pangalos raised the stakes at the Mondorf meeting by warning that Athens would veto Turkey's inclusion because of its beligerence on Cyprus and its record on human rights.

British Europe minister, Doug Henderson, said it was imperative to draw Ankara into the "European home". Greece, he said, had to accept the changes happening in Europe and must "modernise its relationship with Turkey".



Traffic jams 2,000 sheep roam Madrid during a demonstration yesterday by shepherds fighting to keep rights to feed their flocks along ancient pathways. Photograph: AFP

Algeria's election results beggar belief

"The people have spoken," the dictatorial old FLN newspaper *Al-Moudjahid* told its faithful few readers yesterday. Alas, last week's local election results in Algeria suggest that the people's voice was distorted beyond recognition to produce a fraudulent victory for the two pro-government parties, the new Rassemblement National Democrate (RND) of President Liamine Zeroual and the corrupt and decidedly senile National Liberation Front (FLN).

Computerised results showed that an incredible – a truly unbelievable – 70 per cent of Algerians voted for these parties. "It is not logical and it is not possible," said Saadi, leader of the secular Rassemblement Pour la Culture et la Democratic (RCD), announced at the weekend; and not without reason. Street protests by RCD supporters were suppressed by the police on Friday; a call for thousands to join further demonstrations in the centre of Algiers today – "we shall turn Algiers into Belgrade," as RCD

official promised – is likely to meet the same fate.

Opposition parties have demanded the cancellation of last week's results – an idea that will not command itself to the generals who control the government. Electoral fraud was not only widespread but provable. In the Mouradia suburb of Algiers, for example, Zeroual's party will hold seven of the 11 local council seats, even though the RCD won 1,674 votes against the president's 1,262.

— Robert Fisk, *Alger*

Libyan 'attack' on Italy was US scare tactic

Most Italians can remember the frisson of panic they felt when, after the US bombing raids on Libya 11 years ago, two retaliatory missiles were reported to have landed off the island of Lampedusa, near Sicily. For a few hours the Mediterranean appeared to be on the brink of war. But were there really any Libyan missiles, or was it all American disinformation? Andrew Gumbel reports on a new mystery.

gatori, talked to Mr Sanguedolce again this week, only to be told that the island's fishing boats were all in harbour that day because of rough seas. "I was on a bus and heard only the two bangs," the fisherman told him. "Nobody saw anything, and if they tell you any different they are lying."

After interviewing islanders, politicians, intelligence officers and military officers, Mr Purgatori has concluded the episode was a masterful piece of US disinformation. It was the American officers on Lampedusa who alone were the source of the missile story. Supposedly, satellite photographs were taken of the missiles taking off from Libya, but the defence chief of staff at the time says he never saw them.

There were no witnesses to the attack, apart from Mr Sanguedolce, and when the Italian navy went out to trawl the seas for fragments, they found nothing that resembled a Scud missile. The metal pieces now on display in the hotel were recovered by fishermen and have never been officially identified as part of a weapon.

What would cause the Americans to make up such a story? At the time, Italy enjoyed close ties to the Gaddafi regime and had reacted coolly to the US bombing raids on Tripoli and Benghazi. According to Mr Purgatori's sources, the Americans may have wanted to scare the Italians into moderating their pro-Libyan diplomacy.

And what about those bangs? These could have simply been sonic booms produced by US fighters overflying the area; indeed, the mayor of Lampedusa, Alessandro Frangapane, had been told not to be alarmed if he heard such noises.

What the islanders of Lampedusa remember from the afternoon of 15 April 1986, was a sudden double bang. In the frenzy of the moment, it was reported that two Scud missiles had been fired from Libyan soil and landed just a few hundred yards short of a US military radio installation stationed on the island.

A local fisherman, Oreste Sanguedolce, told several news reporters at the time he had heard "an infernal crash" while out fishing and saw an enormous column of water. Some small fragments of what were supposed to be the Scuds were later recovered and put on display in the Hotel Lido Azzurro as a souvenir.

But something about the story did not ring true, and now the Milan newspaper *Corriere della Sera* has come up with compelling evidence that the missiles never existed. *Corriere's* investigative reporter, Andrea Pur-

Kenya battles to repair flood damage

People on Kenya's Indian Ocean coast yesterday enjoyed their first respite from a week of torrential rains during which falls of more than 500mm (20 inches) caused damage estimated at millions of dollars.

A return of sunny weather enabled road maintenance gangs to restore some of the communication links which had been cut by broken bridges and washed-away roads and railway lines around Mombasa.

Twenty-five people died in the floods. The main water supply pipe to Mombasa was cut when an earth embankment was washed away and thousands of houses over a wide area were either destroyed or damaged.

The floods and landslides affected an area which had already been hit by a wave of violence directed against Kenyans originally from inland areas. Thousands of people fled from their homes after a series of attacks by armed gangs which began in August, leaving more than 60 dead.

"It has been a truly *annus horribilis* for Kenya's coast region," the *Sunday Nation* commented in an editorial.

Meteorologists said the rains were a result of El Nino climatic warming, and warned that more heavy rains could be expected in the coming weeks.

— Reuters

Italians take to high life without border controls

Italy yesterday lifted all border restrictions on airline passengers travelling to and from France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and the Benelux countries. Travellers for these destinations were shepherded through domestic rather than international terminals and made to stop only for security and a celebratory drink while their passports remained firmly in their pockets.

The countries in question are all signatories of the Schengen Accord, whereby they have agreed to abolish internal borders by next March in exchange for tightening immigration controls from other countries. Yesterday's unilateral gesture was largely crowd-pleasing propaganda since Italy has yet to fulfil the conditions enabling it to become a full member of the club.

— Andrew Gumbel, Rome
Leading article, page 14

Colombia poll threats

Colombians braved the threat of bombs and bullets to vote in local polls yesterday as Marxist rebels pressed ahead with their bloody campaign of election sabotage. The authorities predicted abstention levels as high as 70 per cent, especially outside cities where the guerrillas paralysed most roads, warned voters to stay at home and declared election officials to be military targets.

In Argentina, President Carlos Menem's Peronist Party, credited with reversing economic decline, faced losing its congressional majority in mid-term elections. Polls indicate that a new centre-left coalition, the Alliance, stands to benefit from a desire for progress on social issues.

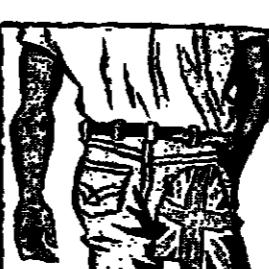
— Reuters, Bogota

Chechens fight tapeworms

The government of Chechnya believes it is winning the battle against a tapeworm outbreak, Itar-Tass news agency said yesterday. Tass quoted the Chechen Deputy Prime Minister, Islam Khalimov, as saying special medical units were still working in the worst-hit regions but the problem was being brought under control. Agencies had quoted him as saying the parasites could have been caused by the rotting corpses of Russian soldiers killed in a war for independence which ended last year.

— Reuters, Moscow

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET



"Is there a major Internet provider that wasn't born in the USA?"

With most Internet providers, talking about football or flags can cause serious misunderstandings. Being based in the States means that their chat rooms and forums have a distinct American flavour. Or rather, flavor. LineOne, on the other hand, is a British information and Internet service which focuses on British interests and issues.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210.

www.lineone.net

It's what you want to know

After your free trial LineOne is available from as little as £4.95 per month.

HP UNBEATABLE. E-SERIES SERVER FOR ONLY £699.

PRICES SHOWN	
NET SERVER E30	NET SERVER E40
£699	£1099
£822	£1292

Now's your best chance to snap up a proper server – and really raise your game. While supplies last, HP are offering at least a £170 saving on E-series NetServers for small workgroups, so for a limited time you can get a server for less than the price of many PCs! What's more it'll really give your computer set-up some extra spines. HP's team of experts are always on the ball to advise you through HP's 'Support Anywhere' resource.

There's maximum reliability with HP's Automatic Server Restart built in, and HP AutoAlert means your reseller can fix most problems on-line without you even realising something's up. So you don't just get a server, you get the finest networking management team in the business. If you want to get your business promoted to a premier network, grab the opportunity now. **[THE PROMISE MADE GOOD]**

Authorised Reseller
**HEWLETT
PACKARD**
www.hewlett-packard.com

To place your order contact: Solution Point 0648 007007 FMI 0171 432 3281
CBS Computers Limited 01506 460300 Micro Systems Corporation 0161 237 9000
Eurodata Systems Limited 0500 549291 CAE Office Systems 01923 210923



Russia's
intellect
ome o
he big

Gas Trad
Division of Gas

Russia's intellectuals come out of the big sleep

Isaiah Berlin once described the intelligentsia as arguably Russia's greatest contribution to world civilization. No more.

Demoralised by broken dreams and the economic struggle to survive, the intellectuals have gone into hibernation.

Now, as Phil Reeves reports, a move is afoot to shake them awake.

Nearly 70 years ago, during Stalin's first Five Year Plan, a handful of his toadies organised a production of *Hamlet*. Far from being an abused (if flawed) tragic hero, the Danish prince was played as a fat ditherer. The "to be or not to be" soliloquy was delivered half drunk in a bar. The aim was to satirise Russia's pre-revolutionary intelligentsia.

One particularly sycophantic critic proclaimed the play's true hero to be Fortinbras, the patriotic commander left in charge at the final curtain. It was, of course, utterly obscene, given the slaughter and imprisonment that Stalin inflicted on the intellectuals who dared to question his regime.

Yet today, it is closer to the mark. Russia's intelligentsia has withdrawn from the public stage, and is brooding in the wings, dithering and fretting over its role and destiny.

Such is the hush that has now fallen that moves are under way in Moscow to organise the largest gathering of the intelligentsia since the end of *perestroika* – a congress of nearly 1,000 people to be held in December.

It will "help define the national idea, to set up a constant dialogue between authority and society", said its chairman, Sergei Filatov, a former head of Boris Yeltsin's administration.

How different it all was just a decade ago. The intelligentsia – a word first coined in tsarist Russia – was the driving force behind *perestroika*, a seething font of hugely diverse opinion, united in the belief that the repressive state must be reformed. They shaped the entire world's perception of Soviet politics, conversing with Western journalists for hours around the kitchen table, the traditional forum for dissenting discussion.

The era became a landmark in the return of a sizable educated class to the heart of Russian life after Stalinism. In 1959, only 36 per cent of the population aged 10 and over had secondary education; by 1986, that figure had swelled to 70 per cent.

Khrushchev and Brezhnev – though scarcely standard bearers for freedom – oversaw the evolution of a section of the population with western levels of education. By the mid-1980s,

there were some 500,000 people with doctorates or post-doctorates, and a further 200,000 working in journalism, the arts and academia.

True, almost all depended on the grace and favour of the state, a condition which infused their relationship with the Soviet system with ambiguity. But some, at least, had the guts to resist.

It was the intelligentsia that forced the publication of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's anti-Stalinist classic, the *Gulag Archipelago*. And it was the intelligentsia that set the stage for the extraordinary televised First Congress of People's Deputies in 1989, in which the Soviet Union watched in astonishment as one voice after another was raised against the system.

To the fore was the heroic dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov, calling for the revoking of Article Six in the Soviet constitution, the clause which proclaimed the Communist Party as the "leading and guiding force of Soviet society". That idealism and energy has now disappeared.

Few Russians in Boris Yeltsin's Russia pay any heed to Alexander Solzhenitsyn's gloomy warnings of cultural decline; (his announcement last week that he is to award an annual Russian literary prize inspired little interest here). The "thick journals" are no longer required reading; kitchen table debates are less about political theory than crime.

"We are in a period of political tiredness," said Yegor Yakovlev, who edited the admired *Moscow News* during *perestroika*. "We have also lost prestigious people with authority; Sakharov's place is vacant."

Evidence of that was glaringly apparent during the Chechen war. Although one human rights activist, Sergei Kovalev, heroically opposed the slaughter, the liberal intelligentsia failed as the nation's moral conscience. It has been grappling with its shame and disillusionment ever since.

Those who did speak out discovered that they made no impact on the Yeltsin administration. "There was a deep conviction that as soon as we wrote about the atrocities, they would stop, but they didn't," recalls Masha Gessen, author of a book on the intelligentsia called *Dead Again*. "Absolutely nothing happened."

Since the end of the war last year, the situation has palpably worsened. The mass media have increasingly been bought up by banks and big business close to the government, with a strong interest in preserving the *status quo*.

The media is in a post-liberal phase in which they are owned by people who are not interested in what the intelligentsia has to say. It is sick of them," said Ms Gessen.

Moreover, the intelligentsia – always a very loose term – has fragmented. Opportunists who



Mind games: Alexander Solzhenitsyn, left, no longer holds sway over Russia's liberal elite but the search to find a new hero to pick up Andrei Sakharov's mantle goes on. In December, the country's intelligentsia will meet at a conference organised by Sergei Filatov, above

posed as liberals during *perestroika* drifted away to more conservative waters, matching a similar swing in the national mood.

Others have gone into business, and others are simply engaged in the struggle to survive.

Examples abound of formerly state-supported artists, writers, doctors, scientists and academics trying to exist on pitance salaries, or driving taxis.

And, although Russia is neither democratic nor entirely free, the absence of crude re-

pression coupled with Boris Yeltsin's liberal rhetoric have deprived the intelligentsia of a clear-cut cause. The President – long derided by the intelligentsia as a roughneck construction worker – has stolen some of their territory.

Sergei Filatov, chair of the Congress, hopes to restore the intelligentsia's voice. The idea – put forward by a group of writers, journalists and scientists – is to bring together intellectuals from across the spectrum, from Slavophile nationalists to westernisers, to form an intellectual movement which will constantly monitor Russia's government. He wants a "broad discussion" that will help the Yeltsin government "make fewer mistakes".

Whether this will galvanise

Russia's intelligentsia into life remains to be seen, but scepticism is already emerging. Mr Yakovlev has pronounced himself "deeply indifferent" to the idea. And Boris Yeltsin's record as a listener is patchy, to say the least.

British Gas Trading Limited. Revision of Gas Prices.

British Gas Trading Limited hereby gives notice that the charge rates of DirectPay, OptionPay and Standard Credit will be revised from 12th January 1998. Information will be included with bills sent out between October and December. The full details are shown in the Schedule of Charges, copies of which are available on request from 0500 800 400.

British Gas

Varifocals from £84.95 including lenses.

Varifocals are designed to help you to see clearly at different distances. As you get older, around 40-50, your eyesight begins to change. You may find that you have difficulty seeing things that are far away, and that you have difficulty seeing things that are close up. This is because your eyes have to work harder to focus on things that are closer to you. This is known as presbyopia. Many people have to start wearing bifocal lenses, with different prescriptions on each lens. Well, there is an alternative – the Specsavers varifocal lens. Varifocals have revolutionised dual prescription spectacles. But they can sometimes take a bit of getting used to. A little practice.

At Specsavers Opticians, because we're so confident that you'll love your varifocals, we've developed a varifocal lens trial. Our varifocal lenses start from just £84.95 including the lenses. Just buy a pair from us and you find you can't get on with them, we'll replace the lenses with a pair of standard lenses. If you're not satisfied, you have two pairs of spectacles to your current prescription, and refund you any price difference.

No quibble, no fuss, no risk.

At Specsavers, trying the benefits of varifocals is as easy as riding a bike – with stabilisers, of course.

Call REED now to speak to your local Specsavers Opticians.

FREEPHONE
0800 0680 241

Lines open 9.00am-5.00pm Monday to Saturday

Specsavers
Opticians

Now you can believe your eyes

Jeans that just walk out of the shop

After decades of dominance in the jeans industry, Levi's is being challenged as the must-have label by G-Star. Cut, quality, fit, good value and a revived look called 'selvage' are behind the young contender's success, writes **Damian Foxe**.

When Bob Haas, the head of Levi's and one of the last remaining members of the original Levi family, visited American Classics on the King's Road recently, he must have realised that all was not well on the designer denim front. As usual, a madding crowd of Japanese enthusiasts were clamouring about the shelves, eager to wrestle the latest wares from the unsuspecting hands of Britain's rapidly spiralling number of denim devotees but, unfortunately for Haas at least, the hippest, most happening and fastest selling denim label was no longer hanging on the Levi's rail.

The culprit is G-Star, denim's star of the moment and one of the fastest moving lifestyle labels in London. "It's amazing," admits American Classics' owner Cavan Cooper, who has navigated the world's rapidly shifting cult denim market for more than 30 years. "G-Star was started only six years ago and already it looks set to blow every other competitor, including Levi's, out of the water."

"We started stocking them less than a year ago," explains Adam Cooper, manager of the Covent Garden branch, "and already they are our number-one-selling label, particularly amongst those who want cult denim styles."

Based on 40s and 50s vintage denim patterns, the Amsterdam-based G-Star label comprises 22 different styles in 18 different washes, with prices ranging from £47.50 for the classic five-pocket style (think traditional 501s) to £89.50 for their exclusive Japanese "selvage" denim option (Levi's charges a whopping £180 for its nearest equivalent).

THE INDEPENDENT

ALL AROUND THE WORLD
WE USE ANIMALS FOR
ENTERTAINMENT, RESEARCH
AND COMPANIONSHIP.

**CRUELTY
OR
CULTURE?**

DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.
READ OUR
SPECIAL REPORT ON
TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

WSPA
World Society for the Protection of Animals

To the uninitiated, selvage is the technical term for the side-edge of a piece of fabric. Originally, all denim was woven on 29-inch looms. To save material, the jeans were cut right to the edge of the fabric resulting in the selvage, which was marked by a different coloured thread, appearing along the outside seam of every pair of jeans.

In 1983, Cone Mills, main supplier of denim to Levi's, changed its denim production from 29-inch looms to 61-inch looms, causing the discontinued use and ultimate disappearance of the selvage in denim. Other jeans manufacturers followed

done. And you can tell by the way they're made that the people who design them know what they are talking about and have a real interest in authenticity and the garment's original heritage."

"They're making the kind of jeans that Levi's should be making," adds Mark, Simon's brother, "and what's more they're selling them at exactly the right price."

So who exactly is buying G-Star? Everyone, apparently, as far as the Essex mum looking for fashion's current favourite, indigo jeans, for her little Gazza's next birthday. G-Star's appeal is global. People like the idea of buying cult denim like Evisu, or rare denim like Levi's original selvage, but in reality they mostly buy G-Star because the quality is amazing, the fit is spot on and they're brilliant value for money.

"We don't even have to try selling them," laughs Simon, "because they leap out at the customer." And the best selling style? "It changes every time they bring out a new cut," admits Adams. "Elwood, their Motocross style, completely sold out in less than three days."

Admittedly this is no ordinary denim war, because devoted denim enthusiasts are looking for extraordinary denim. "Our customer really knows his stuff," continues Cavan. "For him selvage denim has never gone out of fashion, so he is judging G-Star with a very sceptical eye."

With exclusivity as the watchword for successful designer denim, G-Star have struck a near-perfect balance between the mass appeal of ubiquitous brands like Levi's, Lois and Falmer and the prohibitively high pricing strategies of cult brand Evisu, who charge up to £250 for a pair of their Japanese selvage jeans.

"Although our distribution has jumped from only six British stockists to 27 in a single season," explains Terry Bates, manager of G-Star UK, "we are determined to keep the brand very exclusive, with fewer than six stockists planned for the whole of London."

"Growth will be organic within those stores that show a real understanding of the G-Star brand and a commitment to its continued success," explains Terry. "In other European countries our stockists dedicate 40 per cent of their floor space to G-Star's 200-piece denim-related collection. In return, we give them exclusivity and a brand which becomes their number one bestseller almost overnight." Indeed, three of its four London stockists have named G-Star as their biggest seller so far in 1997.

But can G-Star really outlast Levi's, who have remained the best selling jeans label since they first established in 1850? Probably not, but in the name of greater choice at lower prices, let's hope they have a cracking good try.

Damian Foxe is the fashion writer for *'Time Out'*. G-Star Raw Denim stockist inquiry number: 0181-673 2646. American Classics, 20 Endell Street, London WC2 (0171-831 1210).



Jean genius: in only six years, G-star has become one of the fastest moving lifestyle labels in London. Above, brothers Mark and Simon Horrocks are shop assistants at American Classics in Covent Garden and fans of G-Star denim. Above left, the G-Star ad. Photograph: Rui Xavier

BUY ME

Mail-order
makeovers

Beauty Quest is a mail-order hair and make-up catalogue compiled by top stylists. For insider knowledge, we can tolerate a little bit of self-promotion, writes Holly Davies.

Beauty Quest is a unique mail-order service. Not only does the catalogue offer a comprehensive selection of leading-brand hair and beauty products, but the editorial team comprises the best hair-stylists and make-up artists in the country.

In the catalogue, which features products for men and women, hairstylists Oribe, Eugene Souleiman and Johnnie Sapong recommend their favourite coloured hair slicks, diamante tiaras, snag-free elastics, and jewelled hair clips.

On the make-up front, Ruby Hammer recommends

her own products, a range of make-up brushes which start from £2 for a mascara wand to £16.50 for a powder brush. The cosmetics have been sourced globally and include the swear-by-it Great Lash Mascara by Maybelline. It costs £5.95, and is carried by every supermodel worth her Burt's beeswax lipbalm, which is available for £3. Sweet Georgia Brown cosmetics are also featured.

For men there is a range of skin care from Nickel which includes Aftershave calming gel, £2.50, and moisturiser, £2.60.

There are 30 pages packed with Aveda, Tweezerman,

L'Occitane, Aroma Therapies and more, all available to view in the comfort of your own armchair. It's actually a really good way of sending someone who lives miles away a little gift. It could sort out loads of awkward Christmas presents (only nine weeks to go) like your Auntie in Aberdeen – never brushes her hair – or your penpal in Nova Scotia who has a fetish for nail varnish.

Well, maybe not, but you could always treat yourself.

Beauty Quest has a new winter issue out now. To order a copy, call 0541 505000.



Chic shoppers stay at home: why put your looks at the mercy of the elements when the best beauty materials can be delivered to your door?

Mothering an
DIAH HALE

Will the real Nicola Horlick please stand up

When she fell to earth from her high-flying City job, the media declared open season, and oh how we gloated. Oh how horrid, said Nicola. But not horrid enough to stop her writing a book about it. Has she lost the plot – or is there another side to her story?

At one point, Nicola Horlick and I have to cross a busy road. She is wearing a gorgeous, rusty-gold, Paul Costelloe suit teamed with smart, Joan & David brown leather pumps. I am wearing any old rubbish plus, as she kindly points out later, a line of ink going up my neck from where I must have leant on my biro. Yet I find myself putting a hand on the small of her back and guiding her across the road, as if she were some helpless child, and it was me who did big things in the City and wore the suits and had a spookily Norman helmet hair-do.

This is stupid. I know. Nicola will not get squashed if I don't help her.

Nicola is immensely capable. Nicola is "Superwoman". Nicola storms offices in London and Frankfurt when she loses million-pound jobs. Nicola has five children. Nicola has a big white sofa without a single chocolate finger print on it. Nicola goes home at lunchtime to breastfeed the new baby. Nicola copes with a daughter with leukaemia. Nicola knits. Nicola embroiders. Nicola can't ever "just watch telly". Nicola bakes her own Christmas cake. The secret of a moist one? "Two grated apples," she advises in her book, *Can You Have It All?* Nicola "juggles" without ever seeming to drop any of the balls.

So yes, it's easy to feel hostile. Jealous, even. I say to my own partner the night before I meet her: "I can't believe she is 36, my age exactly, but has a house in Kensington and a country retreat in Hampshire and a Mercedes and gives dinner parties and has a devoted, also stupendously rich, high-flying City husband and makes all her children's birthday cakes and earns a trillion pounds and has a brilliant nanny who has been with her forever and..."

"Which part of it do you covet?"

"All of it, you sad, low-flying loser!"

"You made a birthday cake once."

"Yes, but when our son saw it he burst into tears and said he'd wanted a Power Ranger one from Tesco."

So, I am thinking this is going to be grim. I am thinking at least she isn't thin, which would be too much. I am wondering if I should tell her the secret of my moist Christmas cake. (Get down to M&S before they sell out, duckie.) I feel very happy when she tells me her sister-in-law recently split with a cup of tea all over that sofa. "What a shame," I lie ecstatically.

But then I go and ruin it all by helping her across the road. I am still asking myself now, why did I do it? Because I felt she needed protecting in some way? Because I felt that when it came to the real-world rushing past she just wasn't up to it? Had I dare I say it? – actually warmed to her? Possibly, yes. And I don't think I was being taken in. I think if Nicola had been the sort of woman who could take people in she'd have handled everything a lot better.

When she was suspended last January from her job as head of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's £1.8bn pension fund business on suspicion of planning to defect to a rival company along with most of her team, she fought to be reinstated by storming their offices in London and then Frankfurt with an *westeck* media in tow. "If you lay one finger on me," she shrieked at the security guards. "I'll call the police." This did not look good. This looked like a premeditated publicity stunt. This looked hysterical. Plus, we were meant to feel sorry for her? Oh, poor Nicola. How will you now afford

the daily who rinses out your tights? No, we did not feel sorry for her. Superwoman had crashed to earth, and how we loved it. It was come-uppance at its glorious best.

Certainly, it looked as if she had manipulated everything. But did she? She says not. The TV crews and reporters just turned up – besieged her house, in fact – which she initially found rather shocking: "I didn't know why it was a story, much less how they knew my address." She took them all with her when she confronted her bosses because, she says, she was so incensed, so angry at not being given a chance to have her say, that it was done before she even stopped to think about it. Now, I'm not saying Nicola is naïve. No one puts you in charge of billions of pounds if you are naïve. But sometimes she doesn't do the right thing, and even does the wrong thing very clumsily. Even though she looks like a big, hard doll with a lipstick gash of a mouth, she may be human after all. And even impulsive sometimes.

But mostly, Nicola likes certainty. Nicola likes to plan. Her first ambition was to become an actress. She even auditioned for Rada at 17. But she quickly gave up on that idea because she knew she wanted to marry and have children, and being an actress would involve long periods away from home, "which would not be suitable". Nicola does not often get carried

away. She first met Tim Horlick, her husband, at Oxford, but refused to live with him until they were married. She may even have refused to have sex with him until they were married – "although I'm not answering that!" She is quite moral, and what DMG did to her was hugely immoral, she reckons. "I felt as if they'd put me in a cell and thrown away the key." Yes, she surprised herself with her behaviour. Very much so. No, probably it wasn't wise. "But I deserved to be heard," she repeats fiercely.

Anyway, after that it was open season. This still perplexes her. "Why was everyone so horrid?" she asks, blinking blankly. "Why were women, in particular, so horrid?" she continues. "Do you think I've done anything wrong? Do you think I'm unfeeling?" She can't see that there are some who don't have it all, and can't forgive her for seeming to do so. Imagine you're in this old banger, I say, going down the motorway. Imagine, now, that the soft-topped Mercedes which has just overtaken you is being pulled in for speeding. Wouldn't that be satisfying? "Why?" she cries. So, yes, she can be quite hopeless at times, and may need protecting from herself as much as anybody.

Anyway, why write a book, and stir it all up again? Certainly, she doesn't need the money. Nicola now works for the French bank Société Générale, setting up a fund management business for them from scratch in the UK. Nicola has landed firmly on her bank account, so to speak. Yes, the proceeds from the book will all be going to Great Ormond Street Hospital, where her oldest child, Georgie, has been treated over the years for leukaemia. But Nicola could have just made a donation, couldn't she? She's not short of a bob or two, after all. "I do that anyway," she says. Mostly, she did the book because she agreed to do it quite by chance, when she wasn't sure about going back into the City. Having signed and promised to deliver, deliver she would. Anything else would have been very un-Nicola.

There's a launch party for the book held at Great Ormond Street. There I meet Tim. What does he make of it all? Nicola's grandmother, Christina, an 82-year-old Polish Jew in a smart red frock finally introduces me to him. "Zit iz Tim," she says. "He has gorgeous legs." Gorgeous legs? "See him in the shorts." "Oh, Gran," sighs Tim. Tim is tall and dark and be-spectacled and head of corporate investment at Salomon Brothers. Yes, he would have very nice legs as far as I can tell.

"Thanks," he says. Now Tim, I contin-



Nicola Horlick: 'I deserved to be heard ... do you think I've done anything wrong? Do you think I've been unfeeling?'

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

ue, what did you make of all the coverage Nicola got? "I only read the *Financial Times*, so I managed to ignore most of it," he replies. Can Nicola ever do nothing, ever just laze about reading *Hello!*, for instance? "No. Never!" Were you surprised when she stormed Frankfurt? "Very. I told her afterwards I didn't think she'd achieved anything, but I could understand why she did it." Do you ever go to Tesco? "No, because when I do Nicola complains I haven't bought the right things. This is fine with me. I don't want to go to Tesco." Did you and Nicola have sex before you were married? "What do you think?" I think not. He does not contradict me, just moves on to talk to someone else. "There's my uncle – must say hello..."

Nicola was born in Nottingham, but moved to the Wirral when her father, Michael, who died earlier this year, joined the family chemical manufacturing business. Nicola's mother, Susannah, the daughter of Polish refugees, never worked, even though she was highly intelligent and had an architecture degree. "My mother never worked because my father didn't want her to. He was of the generation that believed a woman should stay at home if the man could support her." Yes, she does think her mother was bored and frustrated for a lot of the time. "She had me when she was 21, then I was at boarding school from 12. So at 33 she was at home by herself all day.

She never had a problem getting time off to be with Georgie.

Nicola has been very ill. She was diagnosed as having leukaemia at two. She had chemotherapy and radiotherapy then, plus a further course a couple of years ago when she relapsed. Much was made of the

fact that on a morning after Georgie had hovered on the brink of death, Nicola went into Morgan Grenfell to make a presentation worth £750m to the company. She remains unapologetic about this. "If I hadn't have gone in to work, then I'd have gone shopping in Oxford Street. Sometimes you just have to get out the hospital for your own sanity."

I can understand this. It's not as if, say, Georgie had suddenly gone down with meningitis. Her life had been under threat for years. During this time, would it have been helpful if Nicola had given up everything else, and had just sat by her bedside? Georgie was never left alone as Nicola has a large and devoted extended family, all of whom rally round. "Someone was with that child constantly," says one of the staff nurses at the book launch.

Yes, Nicola does sometimes fall apart: "I'll be going along the motorway when I'll suddenly start crying and crying. It's like this continual grieving for something that has yet to happen." There are the other children to think of, too. Alice, the second born, is particularly close to Georgie. "She gets very distressed when Georgie has to go into hospital. She fears she might never see her again. I have to hug her and reassure her, kiss her and then, while she is still sobbing, I have to leave her to be with Georgie..."

Nicola did not set out wanting five chil-

dren, and would probably not have had five had it not been for Georgie's illness. Although currently in the clear, Georgie may ultimately have to have a bone marrow transplant. Nicola is not a match for Georgie, neither is Tim nor Alice nor any of the further three children, Serena, Rupert and Antonia, now one and a bit. As a matter of policy, hospitals do not tell parents if they have a matching donor on their database in case, when it comes to it, there isn't. After Nicola had Antonia, she went to see Georgie's consultant and said to him: "Unless you can tell me there is a donor, I will go on to have a sixth child and a seventh..." She now knows there are two potential donors out there.

Yes, Nicola does have some irritating qualities. Yes, she can be self-righteous. Yes, she can only do what she does because she can afford it. No she doesn't have a sharp sense of humour. No, she doesn't watch *Friends*. But is it her fault she can make brilliant birthday cakes? Has she perhaps become a kind of victim – the focus for every working mother's displaced feelings of guilt and inadequacy?

Has she never felt tugs of doubt? "There have been many, many times when I have thought I must give this all up." But you haven't. "No. Because I don't see how it would help. I need to get on and do things. It is my way of coping."

Mothering angst, shattered illusions and the beginnings of megalomania

I do hope that my enthusiasm for the staff selection part of my school governor role doesn't mean I have a Mandeville power streak inside me struggling to get out. But there certainly is something very enjoyable about not being the one with a nervous rash creeping up one's neck. Fortunately job interviews nowadays, in the public sector at least, are scrupulously fair, with each candidate asked exactly the same questions. And of course one has to be completely unbiased – something which was put to the test this week when the best candidate for the Year

Job let slip that her husband worked for *The News of the World*. I am pleased to say that she got the job notwithstanding – of course, we'll have to give up our three in-bed romps at governors' meetings and put the witchcraft seminar on hold, but it's a small price to pay for a good teacher.

It's been a bad week for sex symbols. Personally I've always been immune to Clint Eastwood's wrinkly charms so the news from his ex-lover Sondra Locke that his real-life foray starts with the line "Sweetie, did

you floss?" did not upset me unduly. In fact, it was probably just a polite American way of asking if Sondra (sweetie, did you check the spelling of your name?) had cleaned her teeth, to which the obvious answer is: "Yes, honey, and did you clip your nose hairs?" It lacks a certain passion, admittedly but at least it's hygienic, which is more than can be said for Gordon Brown – I was devastated by Brown Monday. I can cope with that silly business with the emu (politicians all have their peccadilloes it seems, and at least he has been absolutely upfront about

it) but the revelation that he bites his nails has severely tried my loyalty. Ugh!

I'm sorry, I've tried to be New Womanish about this, but chewed fingers just don't seem very manly to me. The women you really have to feel sorry for, though, are the Tory groupies. I imagine – and it takes a big leap, I can tell you – that the appeal of a Conservative MP lies in his buttoned-up, pinstriped, clean-shaven rigour. To see them bonding with each other in Bhs jumpers and singing protest songs must have been even more upsetting for the

Tory faithful than it was for the rest of us.

I suppose I should be grateful that my parent/teacher consultations are so uneventful. The worst that ever happened to me was to be shown my daughter's essay on the subject of "An Unexpected Thing", for which she had written about the time I played with her. How humiliating, though, to be called in to see your child's teacher, as one of my book club members was, only to be told that your little darling was "humping" other children. "Well, it's only

natural isn't it, in a five-year-old?" laughed the mother of the little fiend as she told us. We hesitated for just that fraction of a second too long before answering. You like to be able to support other mothers in their insecurities but in this case, as she went on to elaborate his carnal relationship with the sofa, it began to seem like boasting. You know the sort of thing mothers excel at: "Oh, I'm so worried about George – it can't be normal for a six-year-old to spend all his time reading Dickens..." So now of course I'm deeply worried about my children's low libido.

DINAH HALL



KEEP WORK SUGAR

Borders are not only for those with closed minds



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171 345 2435

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Foetal pain

Sir: Your front-page headline "Could this foetus feel pain? Doctors' doubts reopen abortion battle" (25 October) is both misleading and irresponsible. You use a report on the findings of an authoritative report by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on foetal pain to make general and unsubstantiated comments on abortion generally. This is a highly emotional area, and demands responsible reporting.

The College report concludes that before 26 weeks of pregnancy, the foetus does not feel pain. Only 0.05 per cent of abortions are performed at 25 weeks or over. Therefore, in the vast majority of abortions performed in this country, most of which are carried out before 12 weeks, there seems to be no evidence that the foetus feels any pain.

In addition, previous advice from the College on late terminations is that the first procedure undertaken is to stop the foetal heart. Once this is done, the question of pain no longer arises.

These operations are usually performed for gross foetal abnormalities, and are obviously extremely emotionally traumatic for the mother. Current procedures are designed to reduce this trauma as far as possible, on the basis that the mother will always be our prime concern.

DR MICHAEL WILKS
Chairman,
Medical Ethics Committee,
BMA

Sir: Maternal deaths from abortion were declining in number before the Abortion Act was passed. After the Act was passed, maternal deaths went on declining at a similar rate. Legalising abortion did little for women's health; what it did do is to produce an enormous increase in the number of abortions performed.

Like other social ills – for example, suicide – abortion will always be with us. It is, however, possible, with abortion as with suicide, to keep the numbers down. The way to keep the numbers down is not by making "help" with abortion or suicide legal and available on the NHS. Unlike abortion, suicide



directly harms the individual alone. Having said this, suicidal parents will sometimes want to kill both their children and themselves. Should we respond (as we do) by seeking to prevent this – or by offering the chance to go ahead in sterile surroundings?

Emotional distress on the part of a parent – whether the child is born or unborn – is a reason to offer that person support, not the death of her child.

DR HELEN WATT
Research Fellow,
The Linacre Centre,
London NW8

Sir: The idea put forward that the latest report on foetal pain issued by the RCOG could "reopen the abortion battle" is misleading. In fact there is no possibility of a "battle" about abortion. There is now a clear consensus in favour of abortion being safe and legal, and no

prospect of the legislation that allows for this being undermined by opponents of abortion. The pain "debate" relates specifically to late-term abortion, which accounts for a very small proportion of terminations carried out in Britain each year – between 50 and 100. This has no relevance for the vast majority of abortions. The only reason it has become an issue at all is because of manipulation by the anti-abortion lobby.

Aware that they have next to no support for their campaign to make abortion illegal, they play up minor issues about late-term abortion to stir up the "yuk-factor". Fortunately most people can see through their cynical attempts to generate discomfort about the need for access to abortion.

ELLIE LEE
Pro-Choice Forum
Canterbury

MADELEINE SIMMIS
London NW11

Sir: I wonder whether we might hear a little less about the possible pain felt by 92 foetuses being aborted, out of nearly 180,000, and a little more about the 92 women who desperately wanted to have children and were prevented from doing so by a heartbreaking discovery very late in pregnancy that their foetus suffered from severe abnormality, or that their own life was in imminent danger.

It is understandable that the *Daily Mail* and Roman Catholic fanatics should hype up a non-existent problem for political reasons, but surely we can expect better of *The Independent*, on this the 30th anniversary of the Abortion Act which has made such a massive contribution to the health and welfare of nearly 5,000,000 British women since 1967.

STEVE MORRIS
Brussels

Islamophobia
Sir: Not for the first time, Poly Toynbee ("In defence of Islamophobia", 23 October) is a rare voice of reason and humanity in a moral debate, usually the monopoly of a pious cartel of religious leaders and other bigots.

How refreshing to see challenged in print the taboo which seems to protect anybody peddling sexist, homophobic, unreasonable or unlikely views cloaked in the language of religion. What a relief that somebody has the courage to apply the same test of decency to those whose reactionary ideology happens to spring from their religious beliefs, as to those with unpleasant or irrational views of a more profane origin.

RUTH CHENOWETH
Co-ordinator
Third Sector Schools Alliance
Windsor
Berkshire

Sir: Poly Toynbee has profoundly misunderstood the nature of education in her article. Values, religious or philosophical, cannot be separated from education. No school is value-free.

If Ms Toynbee had her way, the school system would be dominated by a dull conformity to rational, materialist values, where the expression of religious faith becomes the new heresy. Children would readily absorb the message that rationalism is the overriding belief system and that it is divine to think differently. I would object as strongly to "Rationalism on the rates" as I object to a system that excludes Muslim schools from state funding.

STEVE MORRIS

Brussels

Sir: Poly Toynbee continues the persistent association of Islam with barbaric justice in referring to Saudi Arabian courts.

Many Muslims, too, are horrified that justice in Saudi Arabia is not what they are equal to.

Many Muslims, too, are horrified that justice in Saudi Arabia is not what they are equal to.

Age of Anxiety
Sir: I also attended the launch of the report *The Age of Anxiety* (NCH Action for Children) and take exception to your article "What children really fear" (23 October). NCH's research is problematic; it confuses the perception of a problem with the reality, and the terms in the questionnaire were too vague and invited the results that appeared.

So for example, the report states that 82 per cent of children in the poll were worried about violence. When asked at the launch what the researchers meant by "violence" in their question to the children, NCH could not answer. I am sure every one, including children, worries about violence, but this does not mean, as your article implied, that 82 per cent of children live in constant dread of being victims of domestic violence themselves.

TIFFANY JENKINS
Chair, Families for Freedom
London WC1

Unsure about what's important in current affairs? You know more than you think



MILES
KINGTON

How have you been following the news in the past few days? Well? Badly? With trepidation? With anticipation? With the usual incomprehension, owing to the fact that nobody puts any real news on the air ...?

Well, it's easy to find out how well up you are with the news, because today I am bringing you a quiz based on news stories of the last week or so. All you have to do is pick the most plausible answer.

1. Why has the Hong Kong Hang Seng index plunged into a spiralling downfall?

a) Because Chtis Patten wasn't there to look after it
b) Because the East couldn't maintain its growth for

ever, thank goodness, and now the Orient is going to be full of wounded paper dragons and lame Bombay ducks instead of being a threat to Europe, not that we are triumphalist, we must seem to be very concerned, on the other hand, ha ha ha ...

c) Because Hong Kong is now in the hands of the Chinese Communists and they haven't got the faintest idea how to run a stock exchange

d) Because Hong Kong is now in the hands of the Chinese Communists and they are cleverly using the Stock Exchange to bring capitalism crashing to its knees

2. All the football hooligans who terrorised Rome last week-

end have now been released, except for one fat, bespectacled Englishman who has been identified by the Indian police as the ringleader. His name is David Mellor. True or false?

3. The Booker Prize was awarded last week to whom?

a) Oh, was it?

b) Nice to see the word "whom" being used properly.

4. You are sitting at breakfast, reading the paper, when you come across an item saying that the NHS can only recover from the years of Tory neglect by massive injections of cash, and you say half loud to your self:

"Here we go again – new government blaming everything on their predecessors. I don't care

whose fault it is – just get it right!" Just at that moment, the phone rings and a voice says, "We couldn't help overhearing what you were just saying and we would just like to point out that Labour is going to look after the NHS in a very real and positive sense, and by the way, it was all the fault of the Conservatives, so don't let us have any of this nonsense again!" The voice then rings off.

Do you say to yourself:

a) "By gum, these New Labour spin doctors are even more thorough than I thought!"

b) "Yes, but if the British population looked after itself properly, we wouldn't need an NHS."

c) "I'd better not have any thoughts about what I really think about Europe and the single currency or I'll be getting phone calls all morning."

5. When you see a headline saying: "Why is the whole world ignoring this scandal?!", what do you think it is most likely to be a story about?

a) Gypsies at Dover

b) Massacres in Algeria

c) Boys' homes in North Wales

d) Some innocent joke made by Tony Banks which, if uttered on *The News Quiz*, would get him a thunderous round of applause?

e) The imminent disappearance of the lesser-spotted grcheling from Dorset

f) The imminent disappearance of all water supplies from the Earth

6. When you see the newspaper heading on a personality profile, "Will The Real ... Stand Up Please?", whose name do you expect to fill that gap?

a) Michael Palin

b) George Soros

c) Stephen Fry

d) Cherie Blair

e) Michael Palin

f) She was a princess. She did a great deal of work for charity, even involving children. Her end. We went on to find Mr Right. We never hear anything about her. How does Princess Anne keep out of the limelight with others failed?

8. The BBC celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1997. How has it chosen to do this?

a) By spending all its money on covering the evacuation of Hong Kong

b) By spending all its money on turning the BBC into *Hello!* magazine in the wake of Diana's funeral

c) By spending all its money on bumping up John Birt's pay packet

d) By spending all its money on telling everyone that it is now 75 years old.

9. Do you think that an art exhibition called *Sensation* is more likely to be:

a) Sensational?

b) A load of new rope?

10. Who was John Major?

Overture and Beginners for Mr Mandelson



**TOM SUTCLIFFE
EAVESDROPPING
IN THE STALLS**

I found myself feeling sorry for Peter Mandelson the other night – not a common mental state. Indeed, in the normal course of things I don't spend a lot of time thinking about Mr Mandelson one way or another. Last Thursday, though, I didn't have much choice because I found myself sitting next to him at the National Theatre, watching Patrick Marber's play *Closer*.

It was an entirely coincidental circumstance that proved oddly distracting. When he first appeared I felt the urge to acknowledge his arrival with one of those instinctive greetings that is pitched at the lowest degree of intimacy, a "Hi" that says "Hmmm. Can't quite remember the name but I know I know you from somewhere so the odds are you must know me". The recognition software in your brain automatically sends a start-up message to the politeness programme, only to hit the cancel button when it realises that you have encountered fame, not familiarity. You see, just in time, that this person who has a place in your mental landscape doesn't even know you're on the map.

His entrance, I have to say, was very unassuming. No fuss, no processional languor down the aisle, none of those little pantomimes in which you distractively look for someone at the furthest reaches of the auditorium, so that everyone in the intervening rows will have a chance to recognise you. But, simply because it was my knees that had to swing sideways to let him past, he was unavoidably up-stage in the performance that followed. This wasn't simply down to the self-consciousness that proximity to fame can induce. He received a number of pager messages in the first act, for example, and while his pager must have been one of those discreet models that tickles you to attract your attention I couldn't help being curious about what was being communicated. Presumably his pager isn't on the same loop as the electronic tag now worn by all Labour MPs. This is, after all, the pager to which infractions of probation would be reported. More exciting than that, it was the very pager by which the Prime Minister would – should he need to – summon the Cardinal Mazarin of the Labour Party. What solemn affairs of state might be flickering across that tiny green screen?

But that wasn't the only reason that Mr Mandelson rather impinged on my evening. I also found that I was curious about how he would react to the play. At one point in Marber's play, for example, two characters exchange obscene messages over a computer link – a silent scene in which graphic sexual invitations are projected onto a giant screen. And such moments are always likely to arouse

speculations about your fellow audience members. Is the elderly woman in front of you shocked, you wonder, or does she find this dramatic liberty thrilling? Has that party of German tourists really got the full force of "suck me senseless"?

With Mr Mandelson though the stakes were rather higher, because he is already a character in larger drama. And if I was aware of this, then it was hardly conceivable that he might be too.

I found the perfect description of what I took to be his plight in Eryng Goffman's celebrated book *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (a work which should be a set-text for any aspiring spin doctor). In his chapter on "The Arts of Impression Management" Goffman talks of the importance of "dramaturgical discipline".

"While the performer is ostensibly immersed and given over to the activity he is performing", he writes, "and is apparently engrossed in his actions in a spontaneous, uncalculating way, he must none the less be affectively dissociated from his presentation in a way that leaves him free to cope with dramaturgical contingencies as they arise. He must offer a show of intellectual and emotional involvement in the activity he is presenting, but must keep himself from actually being carried away by his own show lest this destroy his involvement in the task of putting on a successful performance."

In the case of Patrick Marber's play there were quite a few "dramaturgical contingencies", that is points at which a mental spotlight swung round to illuminate Mr Mandelson's demeanour. In one scene, for instance, there is a joke exchange about the euphemisms used in obituaries – one of the characters explains that "he valued his privacy" means "gay" and "he enjoyed his privacy" can be taken to stand for "raging queen".

Given that Mr Mandelson must confidently expect to be outshined one day, and given that his chances of passing unrecognised in the National Theatre were rather small he was unlikely to guffaw rausously at this point (even if he had felt like it). But if he laughed at all what could it be taken to mean? Similarly at another point in the play one character explains that "Without [truth] we're animals". Would he issue a wry chuckle at this dictum or a sigh of melancholy recognition? More to the point would he have to yet any expression before issuing it, just as one would check a press release? For the record I should report that his responses gave little away.

Of course, it's entirely possible that Mr Mandelson spent the entire evening blithely immersed in Marber's imaginary world, that he quite forgot himself. But to be mildly self-conscious in such circumstances would not be evidence of sinister calculation, it would simply be human. It's difficult to believe, in any case, that someone so dedicated to the art of perception control would find it easy to switch off (even without the electronic nudging of that pager). What is the mastery of spin, after all, but a kind of applied self-consciousness – an ever-present awareness of the impressions you might be making? And that's where the sympathy came in. As Goffman points out all of us perform every day – with friends or relatives or colleagues – but we are never quite as ardently on-stage as the famous. What must it be like to know, as you prepare to relax after a hard day's politics, that you've just had your final call for the lead part in *Mr Mandelson Attends A Play?*



Campaigners in 1967 expected abortion to become the refuge of the young, the mad and the hopeless

Photograph: Hulton Getty

What did we want? Not just abortion



**POLLY
TOYNBEE
UNPLANNED
PREGNANCIES**

wanted pregnancies. It's easy to forget that those who would be denied abortions if the time limit were narrowed would be those too hopeless to act early – those least likely to cope with an unwanted child.

No one "likes" abortion, least of all the 40 per cent of British women who will have one at some time during their lives – but they are profoundly thankful nonetheless. As a student campaigning for the 1967 act we marched along the streets yelling, "What do we want? Abortion! When do we want it? Now!" as if it were some kind of treat. For abortion remains the *sine qua non* of women's freedom.

What would we have predicted if someone had asked us then how things would be in 30 years' time? We would have said that abortion would become rare – a last resort for the very young, the mad and the hopeless. By 1997, we'd have said, with free contraception, with sex education in schools and a new openness about sex, we will have done away with the hypocrisy and double standards that left so many women pregnant by accident. "Every baby a wanted baby!" was the slogan.

Instead abortions have more than doubled to nearly 168,000 last year. One fifth of all pregnancies end in abortion, though it is no one's contraceptive of choice. Even these high figures are not high enough, since many more women would be better off if they had abortions, if only they had the right advice at the right time, warning of the harsh facts of life as a single mother.

Why are the figures so high? Partly due to late marriage; most abortions are not among

teenagers, but among women in their mid-twenties who years ago would have been married. Their unplanned pregnancies would have led to birth within marriage, and a higher birth rate. Now that women defer marriage until their late twenties, it is almost inevitable that during those sexually active years many will conceive by mistake.

All the same, it remains astonishing that as many as half of all pregnancies are unplanned, according to Family Planning Association research – despite safe and convenient contraception un dreamt of by our grandmothers.

What does it mean? The word "unplanned" covers everything from those who don't much mind having a baby to those who are horrified to find themselves pregnant. It suggests that the strange and difficult decision to create another human being is, not surprisingly, often arrived at indirectly, elliptically, evasively. The number of medically well-informed women who get pregnant "by accident" suggests dirty work somewhere in the subconscious. Mother Nature, red and tooth and claw, is no friend to women, whatever one does to it, do it now!

Whatever the reason, a great many women are appalled at finding themselves unexpectedly pregnant, despite the certainty of the pill, which is also one of the safest medicines in the world. Alas, taking its wonder for granted, women are continually encouraged to

feel uneasy about it. Mother Nature doesn't like the pill, whispering to women that it disrupts natural rhythms so it must be bad, must endanger future fertility, which it doesn't. The pill just doesn't belong to the culture of the Body Shop, the holistic, organic spirit of the age. (Well, give or take a pack of cigarettes, a few lagers, an E or two, and a couple of spliffs). It's irrational, but women have never learned to love the pill.

That's why they have been easily swept away by scares, as in the 1995 announcement of a minuscule pill risk, gleefully inflated by the moralising tabloids. AIDS advertising encouraging the use of condoms lead many not to realise that condom "safe sex" doesn't mean a high degree of safety from pregnancy.

So, a surprising number of women remain surprisingly ill-informed about contraception. Despite that, a third of health authorities this year have cut their family planning services, some no longer offering vasectomies, others only funding clinics for the under-21s. Many GPs know scarcely more about contraception than the women they dole out the pill to. Often only clinics have the time and experience to explain. For example, some women who may complain of imaginary side-

How Colonel Gaddafi put one over on the Foreign Office

**MARC
WELLER
MANDELA'S
DIPLOMACY**

Even the high and mighty must play by the rules. This rather painful lesson is now being administered by South Africa and other governments to the United Kingdom and the United States over the Lockerbie case. The news yesterday of Nelson Mandela's splendidly impudent offer to mediate and help break the deadlock in relations with Libya must be seen in this context.

Throughout the case Washington and London have sought to exploit the structures of the new world order which was then beginning to emerge to combat the evil of terrorism. However noble the goal, both governments went about this important task with the delicacy of a rogue elephant inspecting the wares of a Waterford crystal shop.

Late in 1991, the Lord Advocate of Scotland charged two men – Adelbasset Ali Mohamed and Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khal-



Gaddafi: knew the letter of the law

And rather than appearing to frustrate the aims of the convention in this instance, Tripoli seemed to co-operate in its implementation. Colonel Gaddafi offered to allow the two suspects to be interviewed by US and UK officials in a neutral venue. His government also suggested that, despite Libyan constitutional restrictions, the men might be sent to a third state for trial.

Libya even proposed to go

to independent arbitration over the question of whether or not it was complying with its legal obligations. When the US and the UK moved to obtain UN

resolution was adopted immediately after the emergency hearing of the court had been adjourned, and just before a judgment was to be given. The result was the creation of a *Lex Libya* – that is to say a special law which was applicable only to this one nation. This in effect trumped previous rights and removed the matter from the purview of the court until a full hearing could be held some years later.

In this way, the two states had indeed managed to create their own law in their own case. Through their position in the Security Council, they had also managed to appoint themselves, at least provisionally, as judges in this matter, instead of the International Court of Justice. And by imposing worldwide sanctions, they have even managed to act as the enforcers of their particular interests. All this had been done without actually producing any evidence against either Libya or the two suspects.

This arrogation of authority in the hands of a few states was disturbing for other states, especially, but not exclusively, in the less developed world. Washington and London therefore managed to achieve the impossible. In addition to undermining faith in the UN

Security Council, they have impelled the members of Organisation of African States, the Organisation of Islamic States and a majority in the UN General Assembly to unite in support of Libya and its rights.

Perhaps more disturbingly, the arrogance and inflexibility with which they have approached the Lockerbie victims. They have now had to live with deadlock for some five years. Nelson Mandela's initiative, while a slap in the face of the Foreign Office, may therefore offer to them some hope of movement.

There exists at present no international tribunal which could exercise jurisdiction over the two suspects. However, virtually all states have in place legislation which would empower them to try individuals charged with international terrorism offences. A trial in such a third state could be arranged without undermining the demands of justice in relation to the victims' relatives and the demands of procedural fairness in relation to the suspects.

The author is the Deputy Director of the Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge

We conduct patient research into

Patient Care

Will you support us?

The Royal College of Physicians sets the standards and helps control the quality of medical practice in hospitals throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Research plays a vital part in this work. Not laboratory research – but research that evaluates the most effective ways of caring for patients.

- Such as how to maximize the quality of life for those sick with cancer.
- Or how best to provide sensitive long term care for older people.
- Or what guidelines should be laid down for the best management of asthma.

Funding this never ending programme is a real problem. We rely on the donations, gifts and legacies of generous supporters to augment our independent income. Only in this way can we continue to seek out new and better methods of caring for patients in hospital.

Will you help us to improve the care of patients by making a contribution to one of our research projects? We will gladly send you details.

Write to the Appeal Director or Telephone 0171 935 1174.

 Help Medicine Appeal Fund
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
11 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LE
Registration Charity No. 210288

Order-driven system a technical success but traders remain wary

WEEK AHEAD

DEREK PAIN
STOCK
MARKET
REPORTER
OF THE YEAR

A revolutionary new trading system and a roller-coaster run for shares – it was certainly a week which will linger in the stock market memory.

The Stock Exchange must be relieved Hong Kong held back its crash for a few days. It was not until Thursday, with three days of order-driven trading under its belt, that the market had to contend with a volatile, bloodbath session as the former colony's share decline suddenly assumed worrying dimensions.

Compared with Hong Kong, the Chancellor, Gordon Brown's EMU muddle, which sent Footsie scuttling 118.8 points lower at one time, made a more modest impression.

But what if Hong Kong's shump had occurred on Monday when the Chancellor pressed a button to launch order-driven trading? There

could have been acute embarrassment in the Stock Exchange Tower.

The 1987 crash was blissfully ignored when it was decided to introduce the new order last Monday, the anniversary of the most frightening stock market day since the war. The rational approach that lightning does not strike twice was adopted. But it so nearly did. And if Thursday's turmoil, accompanied by a deluge of wild stories, had occurred on Monday, the new order could have experienced a damagingly chaotic introduction.

Technically, order-driven trading has been a success; it seems to have created far less aggravation than other changes, such as Crest, the computerised share settlement. But with only 40 per cent of Footsie trades going through the order book there

is clearly resistance among traders. As time progresses more deals will be ploughed through the book. But the new order will eventually be judged on just how many deals it carries – and it has a long way to go before trading reaches a satisfactory level and the system is fully tested.

There is also a nagging worry about costs. Although Stock Exchange charges were reduced to accommodate the new style of trading, the order book has a tendency to increase the number of deals needed to complete a bargain, thus pushing up back-office costs.

Last week Footsie careered violently. It ended 300 points down with Friday's rally removing some of the anxiety generated by Hong Kong and the Far East markets.

Clearly Thursday's performance for a time aroused

crash worries. With some now regarding the 1987 meltdown as a mere blip, the 3 per cent Footsie decline hardly registers on the Richter scale. Still there are some who wonder whether the bull run is over. Few, except the deepest pessimists, see a crash on the way. But a correction, say as much as 10 per cent from the peak, must be a distinct possibility.

In world terms Hong Kong is not an important market but it does have close links with London. It had seemed impervious to the problems of other Far East markets. There are fears it will continue to fall, but perhaps in a more orderly fashion. NatWest Securities believes the Hang Seng index may go to 7,000 points (last week's close was 11,144.34) in the next six months.

With Asia's last safe haven under attack, the problems in the Tiger markets could become even more acute, hitting western economies.

However, last week's gyrations do not seem to have dented the long-term enthusiasm of market strategists. Many expect a few dull months, with Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tilney looking for Footsie at 4,400 at the end of December. He is on 5,300 for

1998's close but many others are shooting for 5,800, even 6,000.

J Sainsbury

the supermarket chain, is top of this week's profits agenda. Interim figures on Wednesday should indicate the strength of the recovery which Tony MacNeary at NatWest Securities thinks to last six months.

The supermarket

revival, he

believes, should offset some of the less receptive operations such as those in America. He sees figures of £402m against £387m with a year's outcome of £720m (£651m).

Pilkington

also on

Wednesday

is expected to

produce interim profits of £62m although restructuring costs could shatter the figures sending the struggling glass-maker into the red. The new chief executive, Paolo Scaroni, has ordered a strategic review and it would be sur-

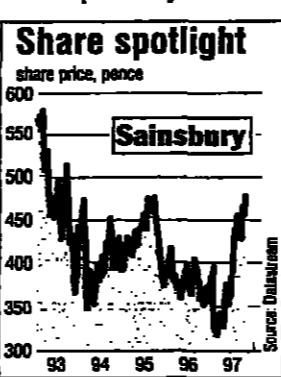
prising if he does not decide on plant closures.

BAT Industries

which is fulfilling the market's demands by linking its financial operations with Zurich Insurance of Switzerland, is likely to suffer a nine-month profit downturn, say £1.82m against £1.97bn.

On Thursday Anglia launches the interim water reporting season which could feature a series of share buybacks and special dividends. However the windfall tax will confuse matters. Anglia's figures should emerge at around £145m and be accompanied by an upbeat trading statement. The figures will include a three-month contribution from the Hartlepool Water acquisition.

Cosmetics group The Body Shop International also has interim results this week. Around £12.8m, up £1m, is likely.



Source: Bloomberg

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (PE) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptional items.

Gas Prices are Bloomberg Generic. Other dealer Ex Rights x Ex-Dividend; E-Earnings x Suspended; p Pady Paid; np Not Paid; *AH.

Source: Bloomberg

The Independent Teleshare - Tel. 0891 - 201 200

To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0891 - 201 200.

You will hear the current FTSE 100 index followed by a Stock Market Summary Report.

You can interrupt at any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying * plus a 4-digit 'code' from the listing on this page.

To get a Membership Number to set up your Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 0871-729-0288 (during business hours).

For help with the service, including the Portfolio facility, call the Help Desk on 081-729-0288.

FTSE plc, London EC2A 4JY.
New calls cost 50p per minute.

Interest Rates

UK	7.00%	Germany	2.50%	US	8.50%	Japan	0.50%
France	4.50%	Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.50%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Spain	5.25%	Spain	5.25%	Central	3.30%
Discourse	6.25%	Denmark	5.00%	Iceland Repo	5.00%	Switzerland	
Netherlands	3.30%	Denmark	3.75%	Iceland Repo	5.00%	Sweden	1.00%
Sp/Advance	3.30%	Discount	3.50%	Rep/Advise	4.10%	Lombard	

Source: Bloomberg

"First Direct
never makes
me stand
around in
queues"

for 24 hour telephone banking
0800 24 24 24

quote ref: 99239

For full written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Luton LU99 2PF.

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. First Direct reserves the right to decline to

open an account for you. Calls may be monitored and recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over.

Member HSBC

Group

and recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over.

© 1997 Midland Bank plc. All rights reserved.

Midland Bank plc is a registered trademark of Midland Bank plc.

HSBC is a registered trademark of HSBC Group of Companies.

First Direct is a registered trademark of First Direct plc.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Midland Bank plc is a member of the First Direct Group.

Coopers & Lybrand to submit merger proposals to EC

Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse will make submissions to the European Commission within the next fortnight on their proposed merger amid speculation that the Office of Fair Trading is likely to recommend a reduction in the number of leading companies the combined firm could audit. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports on the accountants' controversial consolidation.



John Bridgeman: Said to be demanding reductions

Coopers & Lybrand yesterday dismissed weekend press reports that the Office of Fair Trading was planning to demand a 20 per cent reduction in the number of FTSE 100 clients the firm could audit if it went ahead with its proposed merger with Price Waterhouse.

Coopers said it would submit its proposals to merge with Price Waterhouse to Karel van Miert's office in the European Commission at the beginning of November. Only then would the EC seek submissions from the likes of the OFT and the firms' competitors and clients.

It was reported yesterday that the OFT had already signalled to the EC that the Coopers/PW combination should be forced to shed up to 10 of its 48 FTSE 100 clients. John Bridgeman was also understood to be demanding a smaller reduction from KPMG and Ernst & Young, which announced merger plans last week in response to their rivals' proposal.

GWR joins list of bidders for licence to run national digital radio service

The owner of Classic FM is expected to bid for the licence to run national digital radio services following lobbying by the radio industry to increase the amount of data that can be carried on digital frequencies. As Cathy Newman reports, that could persuade supermarkets and banks to get involved.

GWR, Classic FM's parent, has said that the prospect of CD-quality digital sound has persuaded it to commit to investing in the new technology, particularly as more than 30 per cent of the group's stations are broadcasting on AM frequencies at the moment.

The news comes just a week after *The Independent* revealed that Emap Radio, Capital Radio and DMG Radio were in

talks with NTL, the cable operator, about forming a consortium to bid for the national digital radio licence, which will carry between six and nine channels.

Ralph Bernard, chief executive of GWR, said digital radio would only take off if it had something different to offer, such as the ability to send text and images to the small screens built into digital radio receivers. Because of that, the group is lobbying the Government to increase the amount of capacity dedicated to data transmission.

A spokesman for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport said that at least 90 per cent of the capacity was to be used for programmes rather than "additional services". He said: "The Secretary of State will listen to any case that's brought. Representations have been made by the radio industry."

The Commercial Radio Companies Association, commercial radio's trade body, is also lobbying the Government

on the same issue. Increased capacity for data transmission would enable radio operators to provide real-time information on share prices, among other things.

GWR, which is conducting a trial of a digital Classic FM service in London and Birmingham, is experimenting to see if listeners would be prepared to pay a subscription fee to receive real-time financial data over their radio sets.

Industry observers say supermarkets, banks and retailers could be tempted by the potential for data transmission to bid for the national commercial licence. GWR is talking to a high street retailer, which may be interested in joining the radio group's bid.

Mathew Horsman, media analyst at Henderson Croft, said: "An intriguing potential for digital growth would come from additional services not traditionally associated with radio - for example the provision of data. Broadcasters, re-

tailers and financial institutions would be interested in taking part in digital radio."

Classic FM is one of the three national commercial stations which are guaranteed a place on the digital multiplex. All three get an automatic extension of their eight-year licences as an incentive to invest in the new technology. Even so, Mr Bernard said it would cost between £10m and £20m to begin broadcasting the existing Classic FM service on digital.

The national commercial licence is advertised by the Radio Authority next spring and bids are due in during the summer. The winning bidder is to begin broadcasting in 1999. The BBC will be awarded the only other national licence, which it will use to broadcast its five existing radio stations using digital technology. It will also develop some new services.

A series of local licences, perhaps up to 30, will be advertised during the year. GWR is likely to bid for these as well.

Bass sizes up potential acquisitions

Bass is renewing its efforts to make a big acquisition, having been thwarted in its attempts to buy brewer Carlsberg-Tetley and the William Hill betting chain. Andrew Yates looks at the options available for the brewing and leisure giant.

Bass is eyeing up a range of acquisitions in the UK and overseas after coming under increasing pressure from the City to finalise a significant deal soon.

One analyst said: "Bass is a good company with sound management, but there is a growing feeling from investors that it needs to make a sizeable acquisition. If it doesn't there could be a lot of unhappy shareholders out there."

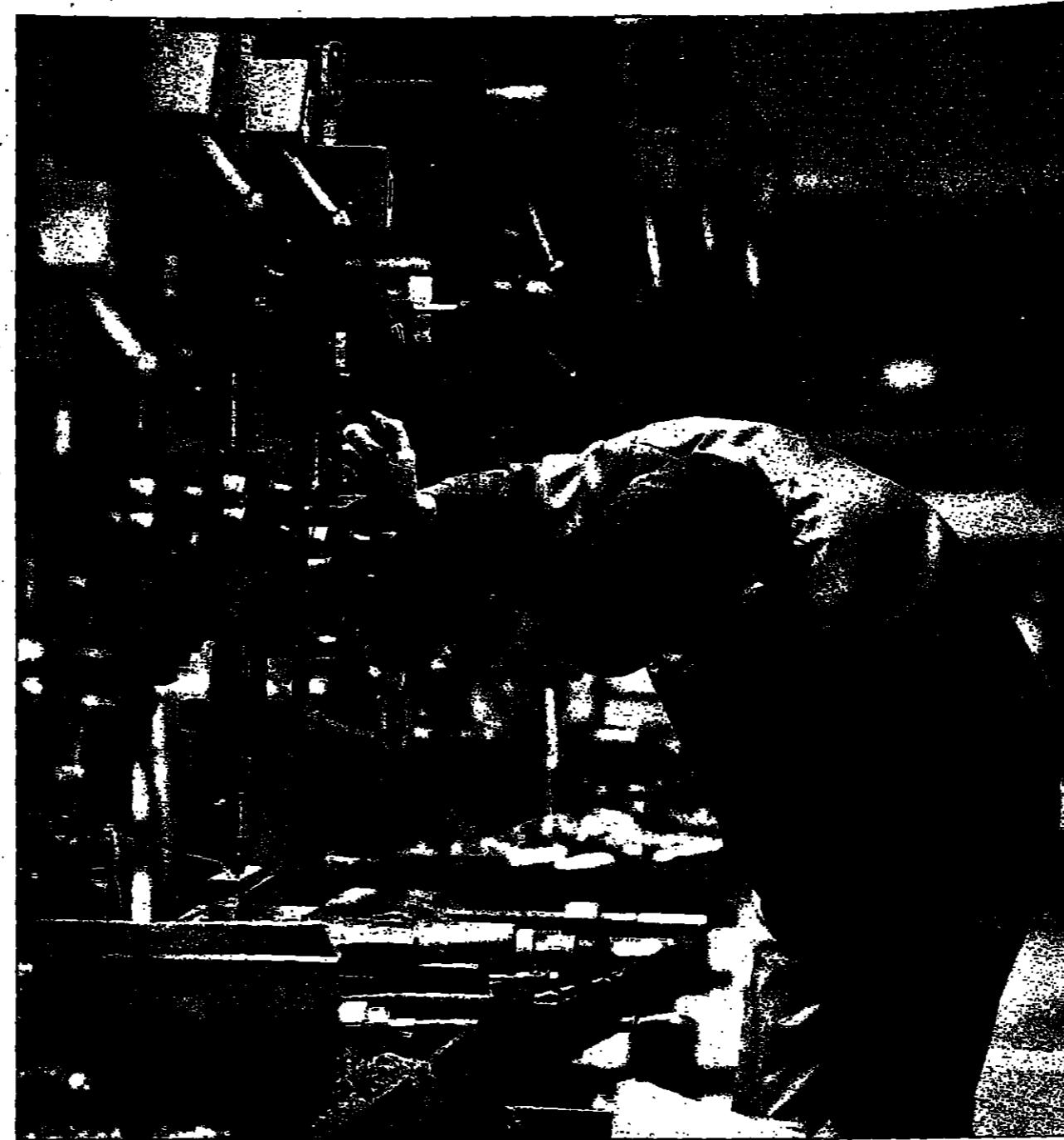
Bass was unfortunate its Carlsberg-Tetley deal was controversially turned down by the new Labour Government. And shareholders can hardly complain that

Bass was not prepared to match the blockbuster £700m bid Nomura, the ambitious Japanese bank, made for William Hill.

However, as a leisure industry analyst put it: "Bass has got to do a deal. It is not enough to stand still and wait for organic growth. Bass needs to show investors it can make a successful acquisition to get the share price moving in the right direction."

Bass has plenty of financial firepower to launch a big takeover. When it announced its interim results in June it revealed it had gearing of just 26 per cent.

New targets, however, have so far proved elusive. Weekend reports suggested that Bass had run a slide-rule over Inter-Continental, the international hotel chain owned by Japanese conglomerate Seibu Saion, which it could marry with its own Holiday Inn chain. But Bass has yet to hold any serious talks with Inter-Continental, according to industry sources. First Leisure and Rank have also been tipped as likely targets, although any deal is far from certain as both groups are intent on maintaining their independence.



Putting paid to low earnings: A minimum wage of £3.85 would affect 11 per cent of employees aged 21 and over

Minimum wage of £3.85 an hour 'would not cost jobs'

Senior researchers from the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) at the London School of Economics have submitted evidence to the Low Pay Unit arguing for a minimum wage of £3.85 per hour. According to the team, research on the impact of the now-abolished Wages Councils showed that setting a minimum wage at that level would not cost jobs.

The researchers also recommended a three-tier rate with a minimum wage for 16-17 year olds of only £2.50, rising to £3 per hour for 18-20 year olds. No workers of any age should be exempt from the minimum, the CEP said, but there should

be lower rates for those aged under 21 who were working towards accredited vocational qualifications.

For those a rate of £2 for 16-17 year olds and £2.50 an hour for 18-20 year olds was suggested.

The rate of £3.85 an hour is in line with an inflation-adjusted average of minimum rates in

the Wages Councils when they were abolished in 1993. The average then was £3.07.

A national minimum wage introduced at £3.85 an hour would affect about 11 per cent of employees aged 21 and over. There are far more low-paid workers aged under 21, particularly those receiving training.

T&N in talks with rivals despite bid

T&N is still holding takeover talks with its competitors in the car parts industry despite agreeing to a £1.5bn cash bid from US group Federal-Mogul.

Sir Colin Hope, chairman of T&N, is thought to be conducting discussions with some of the group's leading rivals in an effort to top the 260p-a-share takeover bid the group has received from Federal-Mogul. According to industry sources, some of T&N's leading shareholders had been hoping for an offer of nearer 300p a share.

T&N's fate hinges on the decision of four institutions, PDM, M&G, Schroder and Robert Fleming, which together own more than 50 per cent of the company. One industry source said: "The institutions have let their feelings be known to T&N. They are likely to have encouraged Sir Colin to try and get a higher offer."

The Federal-Mogul bid does not include a lock-out clause, leaving T&N free to negotiate with other interested parties. Sir Colin admitted earlier this month he had already held takeover talks with other industry heads. Analysts believe another US car parts group, Dana Corporation, is favourite to launch a rival bid. British groups GKN and BBA are still believed to be interested in acquiring parts of the business but it is thought unlikely they will want to buy the whole of T&N.

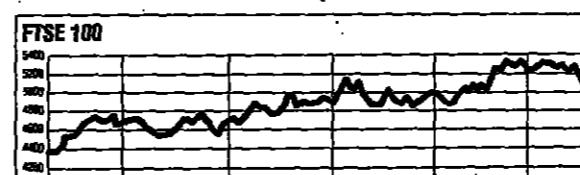
Federal-Mogul is trying to push the deal through quickly and has submitted its proposals to the US Federal Trade Commission. However the takeover is unlikely to be finalised for at least three months.

Concerns that the new group will have a monopoly over the world's engine bearings market means it will have to undergo an in-depth investigation by the US and European competition authorities.

T&N declined to comment.

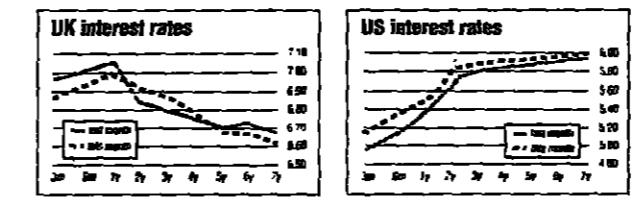
- Andrew Yates

STOCK MARKETS



Indices	Close	Wk's chg	Wk's chg%	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4970.20	-300.90	-5.71	5330.8	3900.4	3.49%
FTSE 250	4656.70	-113.70	-2.39	4983.8	4348.1	3.34%
FTSE 350	2410.40	-128.20	-5.05	2555.3	1949.2	3.46%
FTSE All Share	2361.32	-118.65	-4.79	2492.41	1825.79	3.44%
FTSE SmallCap	2380.4	-25.80	-1.07	2406.2	2126.4	3.15%
FTSE房地	1297.1	-18.00	-1.37	1346.5	1198.7	3.27%
FTSE AIM	1011.4	-2.40	-0.24	1138	1003.8	0.97%
Dow Jones	7715.41	-131.62	-1.68	8259.31	6972.73	1.74%
Nikkei 225	17363.74	-114.68	-0.66	21418.25	17151.55	0.86%
Hang Seng	11144.34	-245.67	-2.08	16673.27	10426.3	3.73%
Dax	4050.87	-10.63	-0.26	4438.93	2659.25	3.61%

INTEREST RATES

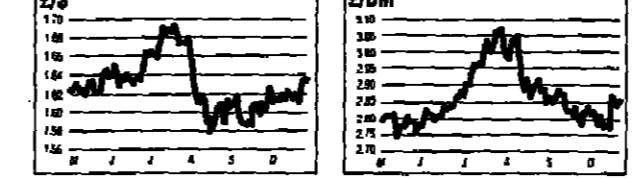


Money Market Rates	3 month	1 yr chg	1 year	1 yr chg	10 year	Long term	1 yr chg	
UK	7.37	1.30	7.59	1.13	6.53	-1.09	6.45	-1.38
US	5.81	0.28	6.06	0.25	5.59	-0.59	6.28	-0.57
Japan	0.53	0.03	0.58	-0.04	1.90	-0.86	2.51	-0.81
Germany	3.69	0.57	4.20	0.94	5.64	-0.34	6.21	-0.51

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price chg	Wk's chg	% chg	Falls	Price chg	Wk's chg	% chg
Biocomplex	662.5	-2.5	-0.38	FJG Mining	184	-1.67	-0.88
De la Rue	436	20	4.79	HSBC Holdings	1612	2	-17.77
JLB Sports	580	25	6.42	Increase	243.5	-1	-17
Hanson	322	10	6.1	Billion	186	-4	-16.18

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

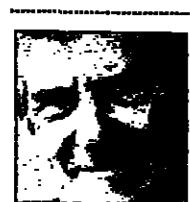
Days	Price	Wk's chg	% chg	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Days	
Brent Oil (\$)	19.90	-0.11	-23.55	GDP	112.80	3.90	108.6	24-Oct
D-Mark	309.00	-16.25	-383.15	RPI	159.30	3.6	153.76	07-Oct
Yen	159.25	+10.47	179.95	Yen	121.98	+1.02	112.86	
E Index	101.70	+1.20	88.50	S Index	105.80	0.50	97.40	

source: Bloomberg

Export orders fall sharply for small manufacturing firms

New export orders for Britain's small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses fell over the past four months at their fastest rate since 1978, according to a Confederation of British Industry survey to be published today. A negative balance of 29 per cent of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) said their export orders had fallen sharply over the past four months, compared with a negative balance of 25 per cent in the four months to

Joining the single currency could boost R&D



JOHN
CHAPMAN
ON HOW
BRITISH
INDUSTRY
SPENDS ITS
MONEY

New analysis has thrown light on the alleged short-termism of the City and British industry which, it is claimed, sees companies spending too much on dividends and too little on research and development (R&D) and investment. It shows that in comparison with companies in Europe, the USA and Japan, our leading companies generally face higher costs of funds and carry out lower levels of R&D. The findings raise a number of questions. Are the costs of funds in the UK too high? Do they drive down levels of R&D by UK listed companies? Finally, would joining EMU lead to lower dividends and higher R&D?

Many who have recognised our ingrained short-termism have despaired at doing anything effective about stopping the downward drift in our technological competitiveness. But now one potential solution shines out like a beacon. European Monetary Union would involve a convergence of interest rates and costs of funds and UK membership could result in a driving down of the costs of funds to our companies, and a release of resources for R&D and investment. It would oblige attitudes to shift towards securing longer-term rewards.

The basis of the new analysis is the R&D Scoreboard, which I initiated seven years ago for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The latest version, published in June this year, sets out the R&D and costs of funds – mainly dividends plus interest – for all firms reporting R&D in the UK. It also shows the R&D and costs of funds for the top

300 companies carrying out R&D worldwide. By dividing R&D by sales, and costs by sales, ratios are derived which enable comparisons to be made between very different companies.

For international comparisons, I have focused on companies in the top 300. Within five main R&D spending sectors the UK has 12 top 300 companies – Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Beecham and Zeneca in pharmaceuticals, ICI and BOC in chemicals, GEC and Racal in electronics and electrical equipment, Rolls-Royce, British Aerospace and Siebe in engineering, and LucasVarity and GKN in engineering – vehicles.

In general, the R&D/sales ratios of these companies are well above the average ratios for the remaining UK listed companies in each sector.

The average R&D/sales ratios and costs of funds/ratios for top 300 companies have been calculated for the UK, Germany, the rest of the European Community, the rest of Europe, the USA and Japan for the five main R&D sectors. The results are shown in the table on the right.

The table shows that the costs of funds ratios for top UK companies are higher than the world ratios for top 300 companies in all sectors except chemicals. Conversely, the UK R&D ratios are lower than world ratios in all sectors except electronics and electrical equipment. Specific comparisons can be made for all sectors between the UK and Germany, the UK and the rest of the EC, the UK and the rest of Europe, the UK and the

USA, and the UK and Japan. These show that the UK has higher costs of funds ratios in 19 comparisons, the same in one and lower in four comparisons.

The UK has lower R&D ratios in 17 comparisons and higher in seven. In 13 comparisons the higher UK costs of funds is accompanied by lower R&D ratios, while in six comparisons there are both higher costs and higher R&D. There are some comparisons where the differences are small, but if differences under 1 per cent were ignored UK costs of funds would still be higher in 16 out of the 17 remaining comparisons and UK R&D ratios lower in 14. The main findings of the analysis are that:

1 UK costs of funds ratios are higher in all comparisons with Germany and Japan, and also in the majority of comparisons with other European countries and the USA.

2 In contrast, UK R&D ratios are lower in most comparisons. UK ratios are most poorly against Germany and non-EC European countries. They are particularly low in chemicals, engineering – vehicles and in pharmaceuticals.

3 In half the comparisons, higher costs of funds are accompanied by lower R&D. In some other cases, however, companies have overcome the handicap of higher costs of funds to give R&D averages higher than in some countries.

How are costs of funds made up? For UK companies in the top 300, the dominant element is dividends for pharmaceuticals, electronics and electrical equipment and engineering – vehicles.

Dividends averaged about 80 per cent of costs of funds in 1996. Do such dividends, interest payments and other financial outgoings squeeze out R&D? Or do higher dividends and higher interest rates push up target rates of return so that UK listed companies have fewer R&D projects that appear attractive – at least to them? Either way a connection can be drawn between high costs of funds and lower R&D.

The overall picture is alarming. With high dividends, company share prices may rise, presenting images of strength and good prospects. But if R&D levels are low, such images may be illusory as companies face growing technological gaps behind their competitors.

What can be done? Fundamental shifts in attitudes and in resources are needed. One very effective way of bringing about such shifts would be joining EMU. Some of the starker comparisons in this analysis are between UK and Germany. UK costs of funds ratios range from 50 per cent to more than 300 per cent higher than German ratios. Comparisons with the rest of the EC are less one-sided, though the UK cost ratios are higher in three sectors. If we did join EMU, would the costs of funds in EC countries be forced up, or would the costs of funds in the UK be forced down? The economic weightings should ensure that UK costs were forced down and UK short-termism could then be tackled.

John Chapman is former secretary of the DTI's Innovation Advisory Board.

International comparisons of R&D and cost of funds

	Average cost of funds (% of sales)	Average R&D (% of sales)	Total (€m)
Pharmaceuticals	11.7	11.7	2.53
UK (3 companies)	2.8	18.0	0.36
Germany (1)	6.8	18.1	0.60
Rest of EC (1)	11.4	15.3	1.06
USA (3)	10.7	11.3	1.84
Japan (6)	1.9	16.0	1.35
World (16)	6.6	12.2	8.09
Chemicals			
UK (2 companies)	4.6	2.0	0.29
Germany (2)	3.1	6.6	0.67
Rest of EC (6)	5.3	7.1	2.12
Rest of Europe (4)	5.2	7.2	1.84
USA (16)	5.9	5.3	5.30
Japan (13)	2.3	4.4	2.02
World (48)	5.2	7.2	16.27
Electronics and electrical equipment			
UK (2 companies)	5.8	6.9	0.50
Germany (3)	1.6	7.7	4.06
Rest of EC (8)	2.6	6.1	4.10
Rest of Europe (2)	4.4	9.0	0.56
USA (38)	4.1	5.9	14.46
Japan (19)	1.7	5.9	12.98
World (72)	2.7	6.2	36.66
Engineering			
UK (3 companies)	3.3	3.7	0.50
Germany (4)	1.5	1.4	0.64
Rest of EC (7)	3.5	3.6	1.07
Rest of Europe (4)	3.0	6.4	1.78
USA (25)	3.1	4.2	5.68
Japan (19)	2.2	4.9	4.33
World (63)	2.5	4.0	14.11
Engineering – vehicles			
UK (2 companies)	3.6	3.6	0.20
Germany (3)	2.0	4.6	3.95
Rest of EC (6)	2.3	3.9	3.41
Rest of Europe (0)	-	-	-
USA (10)	3.6	4.9	11.28
Japan (3)	0.9	5.3	1.89
World (24)	2.9	4.7	20.73

TEL: 0171 293 2222

FAX: 0171 293 2505

International Phone Calls

International Phone Calls

International Phone Calls

Franchises

Mobile Phones

The adventures of... **WORLDCALL WOMAN**

One cloudy day...



Hmm!
This looks
like a job for
Worldcall
Woman

What's more – Worldcall's AMAZING SAVINGS apply
24 hours a day, so you'll be free to call whenever you want.

£8 worth of
FREE calls*

Low Rates to over 240 Countries

A few examples	BT	Worldcall	% Saving
UK National/Regions	8p	6p	25%
USA	20.24	10p	58%
Japan	£0.77	23p	70%
South Korea	£1.06	48p	55%
Germany	£0.28	14p	50%
Australia	£0.49	20p	59%
India	£1.20	60p	50%
Egypt	£1.26	67p	47%
U.A.E.	£1.02	55p	45%
Nigeria	£1.05	65p	38%
Russia	£0.80	47p	41%

Per minute – including VAT

worldcall
For Worldcallers

Watch out for Worldcall Woman's tireless charity work in the forthcoming adventures

*£8 free calls offer applies to new customers paying a set pre-payment. BT Rates = Standard Daytime. All figures rounded to the nearest whole number.

Franchises

Franchises

SPORTSWEAR MAKES MONEY!

Would you be interested in taking on a well-established franchise that costs £1995 wholesaling SPORTSWEAR or FASHIONS? Then get FREE INFORMATION from our FAX ON DEMAND line: 01204 526934 or check our web site on <http://www.linxtrading.co.uk> or you could even ask for it to be posted by phoning us on 01204 524541. Talk to us, talk to our franchisees, above all, get the information now.

Linx Trading Limited

To advertise in this section please call
Simon Debono on 0171 293 2338.

Looking for a great
business opportunity?



The field's narrowed down.

If you want to invest your skills, effort and £25k capital in a profitable business, link up with PIRTEK, Franchise of the Year 1997, and reap the rewards of a winning business formula.

Call our Franchise Director on 0181 749 6777.

PIRTEK
Franchise & distributor

Pirtek UK Ltd, 36 Action Park Estate, The Vale, Aylesbury, HP19 7QE

FREE PHONE AND FREE ACCESSORIES

NEW MOTOROLA MT30 SMALLER, LIGHTER & LONGER BATTERY THAN THE NOKIA 5110

FREE ACCESSORIES
CAR CHARGER
DESKTOP CHARGER
HEADPHONE
MAINS CHARGER
MEMORY CARD
PHONE CASE
24 HOUR REPLACEMENT

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
ON TALKSHARE PLUS
MAIL ORDER SPECIALISTS
FREPHONE

0500 828180

All offices are subject to status and minimum fee of £200
+ VAT and 12 months agreement to the Orange Network.
A fee of £4.99 will be charged for delivery.

Opportunities

You've planned your new business.
Now write your business plan.



Page 18 shows you how.

No West's comprehensive Business Start-Up Guide covers

all the things you should consider before going it alone.

Everything from writing a business plan to local

considerations.

Call 0800 777 888

For your free copy fill in the coupon or call

the coupon or call us on 0800 777 888

Better still, why not contact your local Small Business

Adviser? With at least one in every High Street branch,

you've never been so close to home.

For more information, free NW Business Start-Up Guide

Fill in the coupon or call us on 0800 777 888

Services: **FREEPHONE**, **MAIL ORDER**, **IMMEDIATE EARNINGS**

CALL 0161 328 9182

Services

WANT TO LIVE IN AMERICA?

Let American Visa

